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Muzzling order for prohibited pitbull pet

A DOG owner has been ordered by a court to make sure his pet is on a lead and muzzled when it is out in public.

A district judge imposed a range of requirements which must be enforced if the animal is to avoid being put down after it was found to be a breed prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Walsall Magistrates court was told that police discovered the animal at the Beechdale home of Dean Wilkes after the 28-year-old had been arrested on suspicion of other offences.

Serving prisoner Wilkes, of Priestly Road, Walsall, pleaded guilty to being in possession of the dog, a Pitbull breed prohibited under the act, on Monday.

Defending Wilkes, Mrs Sheila Hickin told the court her client had bought the dog as a puppy around four years ago and it had been raised as a family dog.

Wilkes was ordered to comply with a contingency destruction order, the requirements of which must be completed within two months to prevent the destruction of the dog.

The order states that the dog must be neutered, tattooed, micro-chipped and be covered under third party insurance. It must also be put on the Register of Exempt Dogs and, when out in public must wear a lead, a muzzle and be walked by a person over 16.

Connie set for charity night

ORGANISERS of a charity concert in memory of the late Charlatans drummer Jon Brookes have confirmed Britain's Got Talent finalist Connie Talbot is among the star acts set to perform.

The 15-year-old schoolgirl rose to fame six years ago after reaching the final stage of the ITV show. She will be performing at Darlaston All Active on February 8 along with 15 local bands.

A guitar signed by East-Enders' Danny Dyer will be auctioned to raise funds. The gig has been organised by Adam Paget, a life-long friend of Mr Brookes.

DEAL WILL SEE NEW CINEMA TAKE SHAPE

by Craig Hughes

A NEW cinema will soon start to take shape in Walsall town centre after contracts were exchanged for the multi-million pound development.

Cordwell Property Group is the first of two developers planning cinemas in the town to announce a deal has been struck paving the way for building work to begin. The nine screen Vue cinema will open in Littleton Street next to Tesco in Spring next year council officials revealed earlier this week.

Laptop theft sparks £500 reward offer

A BUSINESSMAN has put up a £500 reward after his laptop containing potentially valuable product designs and patent information for his company was stolen during new year celebrations.

Ran Sohal, who runs a lighting company, says his computer was taken from a restaurant while he celebrated New Year's Eve. The 15-inch Sony Vaio laptop contained information about unlaunched products that have yet to be patented, as well as a client database from his LED lighting company Magiled UK Ltd.

Mr Sohal, aged 60, said the theft happened while he was dining at the Shimla Peppers restaurant on Ablewell Street in Walsall. He said it appeared the thief had forced open a wooden door to gain access to his firm, which is based in the same building as the restaurant.

He said: "They have not taken anything else except my laptop. The sensitive information is not only to do with our clients; it includes patent information. It includes information with regards to our products."

The company sells LED lights and infrared panel heaters throughout Europe.

Mr Sohal is offering the reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest of the offender and is urging people to contact him or police.

The theft is believed to have happened between 7.30pm and 11.30pm. Witnesses are asked to call police on 101.

Construction is due to begin in Easter and the scheme will help create more than 200 new jobs. New restaurant space will also be built as part of the £12million project known as The Littleton Centre. It will be the first cinema in the heart of the borough for more than 20 years after the old ABC in Park Street closed in 1993.

Geoff Moore, Property Director of Vue Entertainment said: "We are delighted to have signed up with Cordwell and their funders Bride Hall and believe our cinema and the accompanying restaurants will offer the town a landmark leisure scheme."

"Having formally confirmed that we will operate a state-of-the-art cinema, we are looking forward to creating an exciting, sensory experience at the Littleton Centre."

Together with the signing of Vue, Cordwell have also exchanged a development and funding agreement with London based partners Bride Hall.

Delighted

Tom Wilcox, development director of Cordwell, said a contractor to build the new cinema will be appointed in the near future.

He added: "We are obviously delighted to finally get Vue signed up, as well as having Bride Hall as our partner to ensure this project delivers. In addition to this we have nearly half of our ground floor restaurant space under offer, in legal, and we envisage the remaining units will see strong take up following this positive news."

It will fit in with the long-term £400m Gigaport scheme which aims to create a business and office corridor through the heart of the borough.

It comes after a cinema war was sparked in the town last summer as rival plans for an Odeon at the Walsall Waterfront also received planning permission. This was despite concerns there was not enough demand for both firms to move into the area.

Kier Property put forward plans for an Odeon as the focal point of a separate £12m development at Walsall Waterfront.

Shoe must go on for panto



Cast members Phoebe Hooper, aged 14, the heroine of the panto, and George Wyton, 16, who plays Prince Charming with Will Young, 14, Dan Boot, 15, and Harry Gregory, 15

DOZENS of budding young actors are gearing up to perform their very own Black Country-themed pantomime.

Aldridge Youth Theatre will be performing a rendition of classic pantomime story Cinderella, which has been specially written for the group with plenty of Walsall-related jokes thrown in.

The organisation's spokeswoman Linda Symonds describes the show as 'good, clean family entertainment'.

The pantomime, which begins tomorrow, Friday, at the Noddy Park Road theatre, will star around 30 local youngsters aged from 10 to 18. "It's a traditional family panto, written by our own writer who creates scripts especially for us," said Mrs Symonds.

"It, of course, stars Prince Charming, the two nightmare stepsisters and the new baroness who, until recently, owned a fish

and chip shop in Walsall - so there's plenty of local jokes in there, too."

"It's just good, clean family entertainment."

"We're so proud of the children - they've worked incredibly hard on this show and have been practising for at least three months." For tickets to the show, which will run until January 25, call the box office on 01922 458615.

The box office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm and Saturday mornings from 10.30am till noon.

Tickets cost £9 for adults and £8 for concessions.

Children attending the show must be over five years old.

All evening shows start at 7.30pm and matinee shows will take place on Saturday afternoons.

Workmate shock for motorist in smash

A DRIVER from Walsall involved in a horrific crash in which a workmate of his was killed has been given a suspended jail term for careless driving.

Sharaf Ebrahimi was in Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday reliving the horrific moment when he was behind the wheel and hit another car forcing it into the path of a lorry with fatal consequences.

He had started to pull out onto a main road and his VW Bora went about three feet over the white line where it was struck by a passing Vectra driven by father of three Colin Stevenson - who worked at parcel company APC in Norton Canes near Cannock, along with Ebrahimi.

Mr Stevenson, aged 27, was not wearing a seat belt. He suffered brain injuries from which he died seven days later after it had been decided to switch off the life support machine, the court was told.

Afghan-born Ebrahimi, aged 37, from Darlaston Road, Pleck, Walsall, who had a previous conviction for driving without due care and attention, admitted causing the death of Mr Stevenson by careless driving. He was given a six-month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years with a four month night time curfew and 200 hours unpaid work. He also got a seven-year driving ban.

Yodel has it wrapped up

A PARCEL delivery firm with a major base in Walsall processed more than 14 million parcels in the run up to Christmas - the best peak performance to date.

Yodel, which took on an extra 320 temporary staff to deal with the rush at its sorting centre on the border of Willehall and Darlaston, dealt with more than 800,000 parcels on its busiest day.

The firm also delivered more than 52,000 bouquets nationwide on December 23 and Christmas Eve.

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Extra 1,300 more emergency patients

HUNDREDS of extra emergency patients were treated at a hospital in just over six months, figures have revealed. Some 1,300 more people than expected by health chiefs were seen at Walsall Manor Hospital, where bosses are planning a £14 million upgrade.

Between April and October last year, there were 16,062 emergency admissions, against a planned target of around 14,723. Admissions for the

year are now expected to exceed the annual expectation of 25,098, and comes as the hospital is facing more demand for services from patients in Staffordshire. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has been struggling to reach the 95 per cent standard for people going through the A&E department, due to rising numbers.

It has also been forced to use a record number of temporary workers with the bill hitting more

than £2 million a month earlier in the year.

In a report to the trust, chief executive Richard Kirby said: "The trust remains under significant operational pressure as a result of levels of emergency admissions to the hospital. We continue to experience high levels of emergency activity."

Bosses at Walsall Manor have said the £14m investment is necessary if it is to deal with demands from the

Staffordshire area. Final recommendations for the downgrading of Stafford Hospital were revealed last month and will see extra patients go to neighbouring areas such as Stoke, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The health trust in Walsall says it needs the extra funding to create two new medical wards, extend maternity services and contribute towards a revamp of the A&E and ITU.

Outdoor pursuits continue

THE FUTURE is looking bright for an outdoor pursuit centre as it emerged more than 3,500 children have paid it a visit since it was saved from closure.

Walsall Council pulled funding and ended its links with the Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre in north Wales two years ago to save cash.

But staff at the centre, now run by outdoor activity company Widehorizons, continue to work with schools and community groups and have launched a new activities programme featuring Black Country and Staffordshire locations.

This means more young people can now enjoy some of the activities on their doorstep and without the cost of travelling to Llan-gollen, where the centre is based. The centre is owned by the School Holiday Camp Fund, which has trustees based in Walsall. Activities there include walks, canoeing, archery, mountaineering and mountain biking.

Among the schools to have enjoyed the facilities is St Giles C of E School, in Willenhall, where pupils have been visiting Bryntysilio for a decade.

Chiefs' vow to patients

PATIENT care is the 'top priority', say bosses, who are carrying out a review in Walsall which includes out of hours services and walk-in health centres.

Residents, patients, voluntary groups and health providers will be consulted by Walsall's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Salma Ali, accountable officer for the CCG, said: "Patient care is our top priority. Our vision is to have an integrated urgent care system that the people of Walsall can be proud of." A series of events are taking place all this month until January 31 and information will also be available at the **www.walsallccg.nhs.uk** website.

Village's vehicle crime is slashed

VEHICLE crime has been slashed in a village over the last six months, police have revealed. Officers in Pelsall said the reports of criminal damage dropped from 16 in August to six in November.

Members of the Pelsall Neighbourhood Watch have asked people not to leave items on display.

Capital art exhibitions to go on view at gallery

EXHIBITIONS which are rarely seen outside of London could be coming to Walsall under a new partnership with Tate, it has emerged.

It follows the success of the Damien Hirst exhibition at the town's New Art Gallery which brought in thousands of extra visitors. Bosses at the town centre gallery are now looking to build on that.

Views sought on proposals for car park

RESIDENTS will be asked to vote on proposals to end long-running complaints about inconsiderate parking near a school. A patch of land in Essington, near Willenhall, could be turned into a car park. Councillors have been working to find a solution to the problem.

Now they have earmarked a patch of land off Hobnack Road, near St John's School, which could become a car park for as many as 150 vehicles. But the idea has divided villagers.

Councillor David Clift, representative for Essington on South Staffordshire Council, said: "I had a meeting with Jack Moody, who owns the land. After trying to seek various deals with various landowners, Jack has offered to release the land for a car park."

Patrols stepped to tackle yobs

POLICE have stepped up patrols in Blakenall after reports of yobs lighting fires, causing criminal damage to park furniture and being rowdy.

Officers say they have identified a number of troublemakers in the Goscote Lane area who will be referred to partnership agencies.

They hope to attract more displays which are currently often reserved for the capital. In a report to Walsall Council which meets next week, leisure and culture chief Councillor Anthony Harris says: "The New Art Gallery hosted a year-long exhibition by the celebrated artist Damien Hirst, which ended in October. During the year, 235,938 people visited the Gallery to see the exhibition, an 18 per cent, 35,950 increase.

"The gallery is also developing a partnership with the Tate which will enable Walsall people to see exhibitions that are rarely seen outside London, including Epstein's 'Rock Drill' and works by J.M.W. Turner."

The £21 million building in Gallery Square, Walsall, was opened by the Queen in 2000. It last year narrowly missed out in its bid to host the Turner Prize in 2015, having made the final shortlist. A designated council working group was set up to look at the future of the landmark building and Sunday opening hours, which were previously scrapped, were restored.

A £400,000 bid for Arts Council funding to carry out maintenance work and revamp the foyer is being put together. The council would then invest just over £100,000 over the next three years. This is towards upgrading the fire alarm systems, improving the foyer and installing better lighting in the building. Bosses say the refurbishment of the reception and shop will improve the customer experience.

Concern over dumped dogs



With more abandoned dogs following the Christmas period, Toni Baxendale, left, of Walsall, with pooch Scooby, and Kirsty Bradley, of Tipton, with Noodle, at Rosedene

WORKERS at a dog rescue centre in Walsall said the number of animals being taken into their premises was worrying, after the post-Christmas influx.

Toni Baxendale works at Rosedene Dog Rescue in Radley Road, Rushall and said: "At the minute we have 35 dogs in our care that are looking for their forever homes and that is worrying enough, but we expect this number to rise significantly over the next couple of months as puppies turn into full grown dogs."

"A dog is for life - not just for Christmas. I know it's an old saying but it couldn't be

more true. So many people buy dogs before reading up on the breed.

"It makes me really angry because they end up dumping them or returning them and the dogs don't know what is going on."

But it's not just dogs that have been abandoned. At The Cats Whiskers Rescue Centre in Great Wyrley, manager Malcolm Hayes says this festive season has been their worst.

He said: "We are only in the first week of January but already we are full to capacity with cats that need re-homing. The situation is the worst I've ever experienced in 40 years. We have 70 cats on our books."

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College is praised by chief

HER Majesty's chief inspector of education, children's services and skills has praised a college in Walsall for preparing young people for the workplace in Ofsted's annual report.

Sir Michael Wilshaw commended Walsall Adult & Community College in his Ofsted report on the Further Education and Skills sector, last month.

The college was one of the first learning and skills providers in the country to be rated 'outstanding' under the new Ofsted framework and received specific commendation for its apprenticeship training programmes for 16 to 18-year-olds.

In his second annual report since becoming Ofsted's chief inspector in 2012, Sir Michael highlighted the importance of the FE and skills sector, with more than a million 16 to 24-year-olds in the UK not in education, employment or training.

Walsall Adult & Community College currently supports hundreds of young people who are out of work, not in education or training by operating a range of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programmes.

Hospital to open gym

A NEW gym will be opened at Walsall's Manor Hospital to boost fitness and recovery for patients, after expansion plans were backed by the council. The new patient gym space will be on grass-land at the site and will add to the existing rehabilitation facilities.

The proposals were agreed under delegated powers. The application said: "The proposed small gym block will be situated within Walsall Manor Hospital, at the northern end of the modular ward block. The gym is to provide necessary supervised exercise space for patients."

Outdoors aid from workers

STAFF from a retail chain turned gardeners for a day to help a community centre get its grounds ready for winter.

An eight-strong team from The Midlands Co-operative paid a visit to The Streety Association to tidy up outdoors. The project is part of the society's on-going commitment to supporting communities.

New plans to transform empty pub sent in



The British Oak pub, currently empty

FRESH plans have been put forward for the transformation of an empty pub after previous moves to turn it into student accommodation were thwarted.

The British Oak in Walsall has been standing empty after being put on the market more than two-and-a-half years ago.

Moves to revamp the building into a three-storey apartment block and build four apartments next door were put forward last

year. But they were rejected by Walsall Council planners who raised concerns over noise and disturbance from the site in John Street.

National

However, a new downsized proposal has been put together in a bid to revive the land.

It includes an extension to create two apartments and a bedsit.

Applicant Faisal Ahmed said: "The new national planning

policy framework seeks a positive approach to planning applications particularly redundant brownfield sites in sustainable locations which applies in this case."

The British Oak was one of more than a dozen pubs in the West Midlands put up for sale in 2011 by Birmingham-based Penn Street Taverns.

It comes as another empty pub which sits on a main gateway into Walsall town centre is to be converted into

homes after plans were given the go-ahead.

The Hatherton Arms has been earmarked for conversion and an extension to create apartments and flats after receiving the backing of the council's planning committee.

However, it was agreed at the last meeting of the full council that Walsall Council asks for greater authority to reject applications from developers for pubs across the borough.

Traders on move as market makes way for centre start

MARKET traders will move to a temporary location from this weekend to make way for a huge shopping centre development in Walsall.

The multi-million pound transformation of the Old Square centre in the town centre is being led by the local authority and will begin later this month.

Windfall to help people secure jobs

A GRANT of nearly half a million pounds will help a charity support job seekers for the next two years, bosses say.

Steps to Work has benefited from a £481,260 Big Lottery Grant, which will be pumped into the charity's Work on the Horizon branch in High Street, Bloxwich.

Each year, Work on the Horizon needs £350,000 to stay open and provide information, advice, guidance and learning opportunities to unemployed residents.

The grant will help people access a range of support services in a bid to increase their confidence, motivation and skills and bring them closer to employment, education and training.

The branch has helped 373 people into work in the past three years.

Its redevelopment is expected to take 55 weeks to complete, with fashion giant Primark and the Mid-Countries Co-op expected to set up shop in town by summer 2015. Around 150 jobs will be created in the new 54,000 sq ft development.

Twenty-six stalls and three catering traders have been allocated new pitches ahead of the development commencing in Digbeth. Traders who expressed an interest in being in the Old Market Square will move on Sunday, with the remaining traders moving to the Bridge.

A rent reduction of 25 per cent has been offered by the council to every trader located in the Market Square. Pedestrians will still be able to access all areas of the market and the surrounding retail units during the demolition and construction phases.

"The redevelopment of the Old Market Square is a massive piece of investment and a huge boost to the town," said Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council's deputy leader.

Help give new life call

A CLINIC which helps couples to conceive has launched an appeal for adults to make a new year resolution with a difference - to become egg or sperm donors.

Donors receive up to £750 on completion of a donation cycle at Walsall-based Midland Fertility Centre. The centre said women donors need to be aged under 35 and generally fit and healthy. They must have no family history of inherited illness and also be non-smokers. Hormone tests will be carried out. Male donors need to be aged 18 to 41. Sperm donors currently receive £35 for each donation they make.



Geoff Price with some of his 13,000 miniature vehicles at his Walsall home collection

All's fair for Geoff with toys at ready

HIS WORLD record collection of miniature vehicles is nearing 13,000 - and Geoff Price is now preparing to host fellow enthusiasts at his regular fair.

Geoff Price has staged the event five times a year in Walsall Wood for the last 20 years and often attracts more than 500 visitors. The fair, at Oak Park Leisure Centre in Lichfield Road on Sunday from 10am to 3.30pm, will feature 65 stalls selling a range of toys.

Mr Price said: "This is probably one of the longest running fairs when a lot of others have fallen by the wayside. We get all sorts of toys such as trams, buses, trains and they can be old or new. You can spend 50p or £500."

Mr Price, from Walsall, recently returned from a trip to Sri Lanka, where he was inundated with requests for interviews from nine TV channels and 12 newspapers to talk about his hobby. He spent time searching the towns of the island during the 16-day stay with his wife Linda to add another 67 model buses to his existing haul.

It included two produced in Sri Lanka and made in blow-moulded plastic and another in wood.

NEWS in brief

£7.5m HQ move backed by chief

MOVES to build a new £7.5 million headquarters for a Black Country manufacturing firm, safeguarding more than 300 jobs, has been welcomed by a regeneration boss.

LoneStar Group is creating a new base that will be built near junction nine of the M6.

Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "As a global leading manufacturer, it's fantastic that they have decided to build a new headquarters and manufacturing and distribution centre here in Walsall."

Garden scheme in the pipeline

NEW plans are on the horizon for a garden which residents say 'has brought the community together'.

Caldmore Community Garden in Walsall is set to have a new decking area installed and a new lawn, where volunteers hope they will be granted the funds to build a play area.

Chairman of Caldmore Community Group, Steve Breeze, says there are also hopes to open the garden every day of the week - as it currently only opens on one out of seven days.

Industrial estate homes approved

A FORMER industrial site is to be transformed into a residential estate with more than 50 homes after regeneration plans were approved.

Derelict units in Willenhall will be bulldozed and replaced with houses and flats after developers were given the go-ahead. A total of 55 properties will be built on land off St Anne's Road under the scheme.

College courses to help with jobs

NEW college courses have been launched for would-be students in January. The full and part-time courses at Walsall College are designed to boost English and maths skills and increase the chances of employment.

For further information, visit the www.walsallcollege.ac.uk website or call the guidance team on 01922 657053.

Poppy thousands

ALMOST £34,000 was raised by the Poppy Appeal of Aldridge British Legion and the town's Rotary club. Members sold poppies at the Morrisons store and at Aldridge Shopping Centre.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



USEFUL statistics. During the whole of 2013 in a UK populated by 60 million people, only three people per day, on average, managed to lock themselves in lavatories. Curiously reassuring, isn't it?

TIP for 2014. Don't get too excited over reports that Britain will have the biggest economy in Europe within 15 years, as some pundits are predicting. It is perfectly possible to live in a truly massive economy and still be very, very poor. Ask anyone in China.

THIS year marks the beginning of the commemoration of the First World War. Prepare for a creeping barrage of commemoration, comment and endless re-examination. But I guarantee nothing you see in 2014 will capture the black humour of the Tommies of 1914-18 better than John Jackson's tale of being buried alive by German shells. It's in his memoir, *Private 12768*, which was written in 1926 and published 80 years later. Jackson describes how the shells came ever closer until two dugouts full of British soldiers were obliterated by direct hits. Miraculously, all the Tommies survived and dug themselves out. As he puts it: "What lucky lads we were. Fourteen buried and all alive and kicking at the end of the funeral."

JACKSON's words reminded me of my grandfather's war diary for 1919. He was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and had been gassed a few months earlier. A sudden dose of pneumonia almost killed him. Or as he recorded dryly: "That was when I nearly became a German landowner."

WHILE it's good to see First World War commemorative coins being produced by the Royal Mint, what on earth have they done to Lord Kitchener? The feature everyone noticed, apart from Kitchener's moustache, was his fierce snarl. On the coin his eyes stare straight ahead, ocularily corrected for posterity. Kitchener without a squint is like Cromwell without the warts.

AND a special New Year wassail to Ruth Goodman, presenter of *Tudor Monastery Farm* (BBC2) a series which recreates rural life as it was in the 1500s, warts, warlocks and all. One moment they're all merrily carolling and the next (I bet this scene brought complaints) they're carving and twisting the head off a slaughtered pig. This is history in the raw, so authentic you can almost smell it. Goodman must be the only female presenter on television to face the cameras without even a dash of make-up. What a pro.

ONE New Year's resolution I shall try to follow: Think more positively about food banks. My initial reaction in 2013 was that there was a political agenda at work. How better to embarrass the Government than to set up hundreds of food banks and arrange photo-opportunities of hungry Brits queuing for their daily bread? It still strikes me as a rather American solution, designed to slap a sticking plaster over the problem than to tackle some of the social evils causing poverty - 24-hour boozing, online gambling and payday loans, for a start. But if kind people are prepared to donate food for the poor, and if charities are prepared to hand it out and if other people are willing to accept it, maybe we should applaud it, as we applaud other charities. Who knows, maybe this is David Cameron's "Big Society" in action.

A FRIEND received a onesie for Christmas, followed by another onesie at the New Year. So does she have two onesies - or a twosie?

"I BELIEVE we should move to ban it," declares the Children's Commissioner for England Maggie Atkinson who says children need legal protection against being slapped by their parents. Dr Atkinson has no children of her own. And until you have actually had to deal with your own toddler attacking other kids, or your over-excited preschooler dashing into the traffic, then you really are in no position to lecture the rest of us.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Nursery chiefs' talks due

BOSSES at a nursery that closed its doors suddenly following a damning Ofsted inspection will meet with council chiefs in the coming days as they battle to re-open.

It comes after the locks were changed at the Darlaston-based Catherine's Cross day nursery, with council bosses claiming the decision had been taken due to rent arrears. However, those

claims are disputed by nursery leaders who say their offers of payment have been turned down.

Residents passed a vote of no confidence on the previous committee in charge of the nursery at a meeting of Darlaston Community Association two weeks ago.

New committee members who took over earlier this month will now meet with council officials in the coming days for them to put

forward their case. Principal officer Sue Lawrence said: "We aren't going to give up so we are going to have a meeting and see what will happen next."

An Ofsted report revealed a visit was carried out by inspectors at the Pinfold Street nursery on September 6. This was after a previous inspection in July, which found the provision offered was 'inadequate'.

Consultant congrats on freedom honour

A COUNCIL chief has congratulated a paediatric consultant who has been honoured with the freedom of a borough. Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrada OBE will be given the freedom of Walsall in the New Year.

Apart from author Jerome K. Jerome, the honour has been bestowed exclusively on politicians or military regiments since 1975. Professor Gatrada, a paediatric consultant at Walsall Manor Hospital, has been given the privilege in recognition of his achievements over the last 30 years.

Passenger is sought over abuse



A CCTV image of the man

POLICE want to speak to the driver before trying to get into his cabin. The man then got off the bus near to the Stone Cross pub in Walsall Road, West Bromwich, and ran off. The drama happened at around 8pm on Friday, November 29.

He was spoken to by the driver for standing too close to the doors while the bus was moving.

The man then became angry and shouted abuse at the driver before trying to get into his cabin. The man then got off the bus near to the Stone Cross pub in Walsall Road, West Bromwich, and ran off. The drama happened at around 8pm on Friday, November 29.

Sgt Adrian Mortimer said: "This kind of behaviour is completely unacceptable." Anyone with information should call Sgt Mortimer on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Derelict home up in flames

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at a derelict house which was believed to have been caused deliberately.

Firefighters were called to the semi-detached property in High Street, Moxley, by a neighbour at about 6.30pm yesterday. The blaze on the first floor of the building destroyed floorboards.

Crew commander Andy Howard, from Bilston fire station, said they believed the fire had been started on purpose. "We are putting it down to deliberate ignition."

Turn again for village's panto

PANTOMIME Dick Whittington is due to be staged.

Stonall Players host the production which features Esther Parsons as Dick Whittington and April Boyd as his cat. Performances run for three nights at Stonall Village Hall, in Main Street, from January 16 to 18. Shows start at 7.30pm.

Call 01543 374541 for tickets, which cost £7.

Thief in 'bizarre' call to cardholder at gym

Rob rocks out Simpsons-style



A cartoon version of Midlands rock legends Judas Priest as seen on The Simpsons

ROCK legends Judas Priest are to become the stars of the small screen - as cartoon characters in hit series The Simpsons.

The first images of Walsall-born singer Rob Halford and the band have been released ahead of the show, entitled *Steal This Episode*, which was aired in the US this week.

A number of musicians have been featured on the long-running series, including fellow Midlands music veterans The Moody Blues, but the list rarely includes metalheads.

In the episode, Homer teaches Bart the ways of illegally downloading movies. The family then screens the films in their back garden for people to watch.

Epitaph

Outside the Simpson home, Halford leads the band in a rendition of their 1980 hit *Breaking the Law* as the FBI goes after Homer. It is the latest in a run of appearances for the Black Country band which was formed in the early 70s. In the last couple of years, the group has appeared on American Idol and performed their farewell Epitaph tour, only to confirm that they would be on the road again.

This year will also see the release of their 17th studio album, the long-awaited follow-up to 2008's *Nostradamus*. It will be their first album with new guitarist Richie Faulkner since he replaced West Bromwich-born K.K. Downing, who lives at Astbury Hall, near Bridgnorth.



Walsall-born frontman for the band, Rob Halford

A FRAUDSTER stole a man's bank cards from a gym then called him pretending to be from the bank and booking him an 'appointment' to attend the police station, officers revealed.

They have now released a CCTV image of a man they want to speak to in connection with the crime, which they described as 'truly bizarre'.

While a 41-year-old man was working out at a gym in Shady Lane, Great Barr, a member of staff told him that his wallet had been stolen and that his bank was on the telephone.

The man, from Four Oaks in Birmingham, went to the reception and spoke to the caller, who claimed that he worked for Barclays.

He was instructed by the caller to cancel all his other cards, and to attend Sutton police station just before 3pm as officers had the offender in custody but were hunting his accomplice.

It was only when the man went to the police station that he realised all was not as it seemed. When he called his banks it emerged that more than £6,000 had been stolen from six different accounts, withdrawn from banks and cashpoints in Wednesbury and Dudley.

Investigating officer Pc Mark Shorthouse, said: "This is a truly bizarre case where a crook has broken into a locker, stolen a wallet and then called the victim while he was working out to tell him that his cards were stolen and that he needed to



A CCTV image which has been released by police

go to the police station." Also stolen was an Omega De Ville watch worth more than £2,000.

Pc Shorthouse added: "We've been working hard to find the offender and have managed to secure CCTV footage taken from a camera inside the Wednesbury branch of Barclays, where a man used one of the stolen cards to withdraw £2,700."

The theft from the gym happened around noon on September 9, with the withdrawals made shortly after.

Anyone who can name the man in the CCTV is urged to call Pc Shorthouse on 101 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Budget nearly finalised

COUNCIL chiefs are drawing up their final budget in the light of a consultation that revealed most people in a borough supported a museum closing down. The final proposals will be put to Walsall Council next month - and bosses insist they could change in the wake of the survey.

It comes after nearly 150 Walsall Council workers have come forward to take voluntary redundancy - almost half the total number of posts that need to be cut. Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe said redundancies were 'unavoidable'. The survey showed 52 per cent supported the closure of the museum, but cuts to youth services were opposed.

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Mother in Christmas meat theft

A MOTHER of three who tried to steal meat for her family's Christmas dinner avoided being locked up over the festive period.

Ashley Thomas, of Penkridge Street, Walsall, was taken into custody after being caught stealing frozen meat in Wednesday.

The 28-year-old was on an eight-month suspended sentence for burglary, imposed on December 5, when she was arrested, Sandwell Magistrates Court heard. She admitted stealing frozen meat worth £63 from Iceland. In police interview, Thomas said she tried to steal the meat for her children's Christmas meal so she could buy presents as well.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, added that the conditions of her previous sentence, which was suspended for 24 months, were to attend supervision appointments, do a drug rehabilitation course and to 'stay out of trouble'. He also said Thomas tested positive for drugs in custody but she disputed the results of the tests as she had been in hospital and said she had not taken any illegal drugs.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said the fact she had pleaded guilty and had three children, aged eight, six and two, was enough for him to grant her conditional bail. She will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 20.

Disruption for drivers

DRIVERS are being warned of delays in Walsall during roadworks over the next few days.

Temporary traffic lights will operate in Stafford Street on January 12 for telecoms main repairs.

The work will take place between 8am and 4pm. More temporary lights will be in operation in Lindon Road on January 13 to 15. Sewer repairs are being carried out by Amey for Severn Trent.

Panto players go to the ball

A PANTOMIME will be staged at Aldridge Youth Theatre starting from tomorrow night, (Friday).

Cinderella is being shown from January 10 to 25. Performances will be at 7.30pm, with matinee performances on Saturdays at 2.30pm. Tickets for adults cost £9 and concessions £8.

Further expansion plans by hospice chiefs

A CHILDREN'S hospice which is undergoing a £400,000 extension is to further expand, under new plans put forward by bosses.

Acorns, which supports youngsters and their families, is looking to create extra facilities at its Walsall base.

The hospice is now looking to build a single-storey extension which would accommodate a wet room in Walstead Road.

A formal application has been submitted to Walsall Council and a decision is soon expected to be made by councillors or planning officers under delegated powers.

It comes after a £400,000 project to increase facilities at the hospice started in October. The six month project includes the addition of a two storey extension to the existing building on Walstead Road.

Storage

The new building includes family accommodation on the first floor with two bedrooms, bathroom, living space and lift access. Families will have access to a ground floor therapy room for complementary sessions, counselling and group work.

There will also be a dedicated, tempera-

ture controlled storage room for specialist equipment, including beds, in addition to separate work to upgrade the central heating and hot water system and install air-conditioning.

The new wet room application has been put forward through AT Architects Ltd.

A supporting document states: "The proposals are for a single-storey extension adjacent to the reception area at the front of the existing building. The extension will accommodate a wet room.

"The proposed extension is an appropriate solution to meet the applicant's operational requirements and is considered to be

essential to meet the hospice's continuing user demands.

"The design is in keeping with the existing building and the impact of the surrounding environment will be negligible."

Ann Smallman, head of care services at Acorns, said: "It will allow families additional privacy with the final care of their child at a difficult and very sensitive time, which we know is particularly important in certain cultures."

Acorns has bases in Walsall, Selly Oak and Worcester. The first was in Birmingham and followed soon after by its hospice in the Black Country in 1999.

Councillor back on the buses cause after success of route

AN EARLY evening weekday bus service could be set up in part of Walsall by a campaigning councillor after the success of a route that he sponsored.

Public transport campaigner and former mayor Councillor Richard Worrall pumped his town hall allowance into setting up the new 35a Sunday route.

It means that passengers in parts of Rushall and Aldridge can travel into Walsall town centre.

And a survey by West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority Centro has found the service has met the access standard requirement of more than five per cent usage, meaning it will now be extended until October.

Mr Worrall has now finished sponsoring the service - and he is turning his attention to a weekday timetable. His stint ended on a high with 198 passengers on the six journeys between Walsall, Barns Lane, Rushall, and Aldridge, beating the previous record from the week before of 162.

Councillor Worrall said: "Now that the pump-priming exercise has resulted in Centro supporting the Sunday service, and improving it, I am now examining the possibility of an early evening Monday to Saturday service, as this finishes before 6pm, when people say they need it to finish later so they can get back from work and the doctor's."

"I hope that this will be possible, but it does depend on affordability, so the prices bus operators come back with will determine whether I can afford to give it a try."

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "We will also be looking at possible changes to the service so that we can maximise the benefits for as many people as possible."

"She relies on the service and if it was cut or if it only ran at certain times, she would be stuck in the house because catching two or three buses would just be too much for her. Gillian has been collecting signatures each time she gets on the bus and she has been speaking to people who will be affected."

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

I did it for my grandad, says Korben



Gymnast Korben Fellows, aged 11, who has won the Great Britain gymnastics championship for the under-12s

WHEN he had sad news on the eve of competing in a national gymnastics contest, young Korben Fellows dug in his heels and vowed: "I'll do it for Grandad."

The 11-year-old from Coseley was devastated when he heard his beloved grandfather, Frank Hale, aged 83, of Moxley, had died. Korben was preparing for the Great Britain under-12s championships in Glasgow when he heard the news.

"Korben cried himself to sleep that night," said his mother Lisa, aged 41. "But he said he was going to do it for his grandad,

who idolised him - and Korben was amazing in the competition." The talented gymnast scooped gold in the pommel, rings and high bar disciplines. As well as being crowned overall champion, Korben, a Coseley School pupil, won the Nik Stuart award for the gymnast showing the "most amazing talent".

Korben lives with his parents Wayne and Lisa, brothers Kai, aged nine, and Klay, six, and sister Keirre, three, in Legg Lane, Coseley. Along with his brothers and sister, he attends the City of Birmingham Gymnastics Club.



Frank Hale and Korben

NEWS

in brief

Packs to help old stay warm

CHARITY Age UK has taken delivery of 30 packs to help elderly residents in Walsall keep warm.

The packs, provided by housing firm Keepmoat, contain hand warmers, tea, cereal bars, a room temperature thermometer and information on how to stay warm. The packs also tell how people can find out if they are eligible for free boiler replacements via the Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HCRRO).

The charity is encouraging residents to drink regular hot drinks, keep their hands and face warm, and have regular snacks to fight off the cold.

Lesley Shaw at Age UK in Walsall, said: "We are very grateful to Keepmoat for providing these packs."

New chief for housing group

A HOUSING association has announced the appointment of its new chief executive.

Tom Hopkins, who was managing director at the national resident training and advisory consultancy Open Communities, joined Walsall-based Watsons on January 2.

He took up the reins of the organisation after the death of previous chief executive, Ursula Barrington, who died in July after suffering from heart problems.

Mr Hopkins, aged 52, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing, said: "I aim to develop and strengthen the organisation nationally."

Database call for town groups

CLUBS and facilities across Walsall are being encouraged to sign up to a new database. Walsall Get Active is an online service for people to access information about what is happening in their area.

So far, around 30 clubs offering everything from sport to dance classes, have signed up. Councillor Anthony Harris, portfolio holder for leisure and culture, said: "Our aim is to encourage people to be more active more often." For details visit www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive

Etching skills

A DRY-POINT etching workshop will take place at Walsall Leather Museum on January 18. It will be led by artist Michele Harris and takes place from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

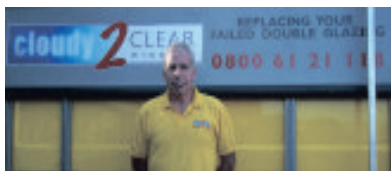
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

HOT on the heels of shadow transport minister Mary Creagh's outburst at the apparent sexism of Thomas the Tank Engine, it now appears that another inhabitant of the Westminster bubble has been spending a little too much time in the children's library again.

This time it's independent consultant Caroline Shenton, who has been commissioned to come up with how to turn the Houses of Parliament into a 'visitor attraction'. Her proposal is for a Willy Wonka-style great glass elevator on the side of the Victoria Tower.

I know politicians love banging on about 'transparency', but this is ridiculous.

□□□□□

WHEN they said we're all in this together, it never for one moment occurred to me that would extend to ladies and gentlemen of the Bar.

No, not that kind of bar. A group of our learned friends were out on strike this week, manning the picket lines in their full clobber, gowns, winged-collars, and wigs, the whole shebang.

Cuts to the legal aid budget has apparently left some of them struggling to get by, says Mr Nigel Lithman QC, who appears to be a sort of shop steward for m'learned friends. He warns that unless barristers are paid more, many of us will soon find ourselves living next door to paedophiles and rapists because there will be nobody to prosecute them. Not that he would want to cause any undue alarm, you understand.

Needless to say, there have been bitter arguments about how much barristers actually earn. Justice Secretary Chris Grayling says they typically earn £84,000 a year. Mr Lithman - doesn't he sound like he should be a judge on X Factor? - says it is closer to £37,000.

I'm sure they would agree, though, that there's only one way to settle this. Full public inquiry, led by a top judge, senior silks on either side, and wigs all round.

What do we want? An independent inquiry. When do we want it? In the fullness of time.

□□□□□

IT would take a heart of stone not to see the funny side of the ship full of global-warming fans who set sail to Antarctica to investigate the disappearing ice cap - and ended up getting stuck in it.

At the time of writing, their ship has been stuck in the 'vanishing' ice for 10 days, as is the Chinese ice-breaker ship sent out to rescue them. Eventually they were freed by a third ship, an Australian icebreaker.

Quite how many hydrocarbons have been emitted during this ill-fated school field trip, but I suspect it will take quite a few low-energy light bulbs and cycle trips by the time we're finished.



Setting standards - Brett with community champion Nick Sutcliffe at the bakery



Lorries at the Wednesbury bakery which produces two million loaves a week

Using their loaf to keep it in the family

IT IS ONE of the largest bakeries in the UK, employing 4,500 staff - including 430 from its base in Wednesbury

And no matter what type of bread you eat at home, you are bound to have heard of the Warburton's brand.

The family-run business is as synonymous with the shopping list as Cadbury chocolate and Tetley tea, and ever since its beginnings in 1876 it is still going strong.

Thomas Warburton and his wife Ellen first opened their grocery shop in 1870, and during a slump in the grocery market in 1876, Ellen started baking bread.

Her first batch of four loaves of bread and six cakes sold out in under an hour and within two weeks the tiny shop in Bolton was renamed 'Warburton's Bakers' and continued to go from strength to strength.

More than 130 years later the company is still in the hands of the family, run by fifth generation family members Jonathan, Ross and Brett Warburton.

Integral

And family values very much remain an integral part of the business. Brett Warburton said during a visit to the Wednesbury bakery. "I'm fifth generation and it is still very much a family business. Not only in terms of its ownership, but also in terms of its ethos. We pride ourselves on being a family business. There are still three family members on the board - myself, Jonathan and Ross."

The Wednesbury base, in Moorcroft Drive, produces two million loaves a week and serves around 2,000 shops, 24 hours a day, 363 days a year.

It closes only for Christmas Day and Easter. Brett said the brand is often quoted as being one of the top three in the country behind Coca Cola and Walkers, and it aims to treat staff as part of one big family. As such, it runs a scheme called community giving, investing in schemes



Brett Warburton proudly views the fruits of his company's labour as he visited the Wednesbury site, which employs 430

as well as donating products to the local community.

"We like to think we treat our people well and want our business to operate as a large family. We first set foot outside Lancashire in 1984 and we have grown that on quality of production and quality of service. We are very lucky to have a lot of people who have worked for the business for a very long time," Brett added.

Nick Sutcliffe is the community champion at Wednesbury and explained the company invests in a number of ways. Under financial giving, the company

donates small amounts of money to purchase specific pieces of equipment.

Last year more than £20,000 was donated in the West Midlands supporting a range of activities, as well as hundreds of thousands of pounds more to the charitable sector. In addition, around £27,000 of products were given to one-off events such as church events, breakfast clubs, and Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham for families of patients in hospitals and hospices.

Meanwhile, the company also has an investment programme where it gets employees into the community. In one

case it has teamed up with the RSA Academy in Tipton and has this year been working with business students on the international baccalaureate. Brett added: "Where we used to just give someone a cheque and move on we like to get involved with the people that we work with."

People can apply for support from the firm's financial giving scheme, which is aimed at supporting projects, activities and organisations that have charitable aims and will be of real direct benefit to local communities. Visit www.warburtons.co.uk to find out more.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A JOB centre was besieged by hundreds of people applying for work at the Austin Rover car plant in Longbridge. Job-hunters defied the snow and rain and started queuing outside the employment exchange in Northfield before it had opened. Around 600 people applied for fewer than 400 posts. But it was all in vain as the positions were already filled.

A POLICE sergeant was wounded by a Zulu spear when a man thrust it through a bedroom door during a house siege in Birmingham. A 34-year-old man, who was eventually persuaded to come out after seven hours, was detained under the Mental Health Act.

1993...

CORONATION Street actress Anne Kirkbride was set for a return to the cobbles after recovering from throat cancer. The actress, who played Deirdre Barlow had a lump removed from her neck.

EDUCATION Secretary John Patten revealed that he had been 'flogged' from time to time at his strict Jesuit school. But despite this experience, he said he regretted that the cane had been banned by European court rulings as he launched a new crackdown on bullying and racial harassment in schools.

THE world of cricket was mourning the death of commentator Brian 'Johnners' Johnston at the age of 81. His double act with Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld on Test Match Special, which frequently made much use of schoolboy humour, would often leave listeners, not to mention himself, in fits of giggles.

2003...

SEVERAL shops were forced to close as Brierley Hill town centre was overcome with a swarm of rats. In scenes reminiscent of the Pied Piper, one woman walking along Pearson Street turned round to discover she was being followed by around half a dozen rodents.

BRITNEY Spears' whirlwind marriage was set to end as suddenly as it began, with reports that she was trying to get her vows annulled within hours of making them at Las Vegas' Little White Chapel. Sources said the 5.30am ceremony, where she was walked down the aisle by a barman, was a joke which had gone too far.

A MOTHER and son were rescued from a house in Wolverhampton after an electric blanket being used to heat home brew caught fire. Assistant divisional fire officer David Glenis warned that electric blankets should never be used in this way.

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LETTERS

Cable was wrong over Powell's big speech

I TOTALLY disagree with Vince Cable and his comments about Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech in 1968.

I grew up in Powell's constituency of Wolverhampton South West and I remember that speech as if it were yesterday. My parents met Powell on a number of occasions. He was a great constituency MP and popular with immigrant communities, in particular the Ghanaian community, something never discussed in the media.

Also generally, many immigrants

agreed with his Rivers of Blood speech. Sadly, the bottom line is people of this country have had enough of mass immigration. We are only a small island and it doesn't seem logical allowing Romanians and Bulgarians in when there isn't enough work for people already here.

The Government is desperately trying to reduce the deficit, yet at the same time allowing new immigrants welfare and benefit payments. Total madness. My wife is of Polish extraction and I am half Greek. As Nigel Farage said, it is only the

poor nations which head to the richer nations. There is not much rich nation to rich nation movement. Poland, for example, couldn't sustain mass immigration, and wouldn't tolerate it either.

There seems to be a vast divide in this nation between our rulers, including Vince Cable, who are totally out of touch, and the people who despair because they can't get the establishment to see reality. Idealism versus reality, I suppose, which happens to all politicians after a while.

I PAYNE, Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Oil workers' fight should get backing

SOME letters in your paper amaze me, especially the ones about the Grangemouth oil refinery workers. Those nasty unions and their members daring to fight back against wage cuts, pension cuts and terms and conditions being slashed.

What did these letters so vehemently protest about? Oh yes, trade union leaders pushing wanted posters through the bosses' letter boxes. But not a word about the hundreds of unwanted letters for workers - known as P45s.

Now I look forward to letters from these people boasting of how they went to their bosses, demanding a wage cut, pension cuts along with reductions in their terms and conditions. Excuse me a moment, pigs just flew overhead.

P LAST - concerned pensioner, Rushall

Questions over museum

Z LISTER of Aldridge has made a fair point, how many people have been contacted about the proposed closure of Walsall Museum and how many have replied?

One would also like to know how many people have been contacted - the method of contact may well disenfranchise some of the electorate - was it by written questionnaire, computer, or what?

GRAEME CONNINGALE, King Street, Palfrey, Walsall

Disgraceful state of town centre streets

PARTS of Walsall town centre and especially Leicester Street and the Civic Quarter are a disgrace.

The area between Wetherpoons and the newsagents is covered in pigeon excrement.

Similarly, Park Street arcade is also splattered, especially around Billy Bunter's Bakehouse.

I have contacted Walsall Council's Clean and Green environmental department whose response was its hot wash sweeper is currently off the road.

Interestingly however, I have witnessed Walsall's only hot wash sweeper regularly cleansing the rear entrance to the town hall but it always avoids the worst-blighted area.

The Clean and Green Services are obviously failing in their duty to provide an efficient and clean service.

Even with Walsall Council's cutbacks there is no excuse for filth.

G MAHONEY
Butts Street
Walsall

Ex-mayor tells of cycling with chain on board

B PARKER of Pelsall (December 18) says when I was Mayor of Walsall and walked, cycled or used buses to get to engagements, the limo must have followed me every time to bring the chain along.

It's a fair query to raise and a situation which might well apply today in the much less secure times we now live in.

But back then, in the 1990s, as my whole idea was to see how far it might be possible for a mayor to reduce what we would nowadays call his carbon footprint, it would have defeated the whole object.

I really did travel with the chain and without the limo, as the Daily Telegraph was forced to concede when it published an apology for making the same suggestion - a cracking story if only it had been true!

I wish B Parker and all your readers a Green New Year in 2014.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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- Dementia support workers provide emotional and practical support to carers and family members by helping them to understand dementia, to find coping strategies and to signpost or refer them to other organisations who can provide specialist help and assistance.

- A dementia adviser in Sandwell who works directly with people in the



The Alzheimer's Society provides both emotional and practical support

early stages of dementia to make sure they are taking an active role in the community doing things that they enjoy and are meaningful to them.

- Dementia cafés provide a safe place for people with dementia, their families and friends to meet others in a similar situation for information, support and social interaction.

- An information worker in Wolverhampton who delivers presentations

about dementia to a range of organisations from community groups and schools to GP surgeries.

For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society Black Country office by emailing blackcountryoffice@alzheimers.org.uk or call 0121 521 3020.

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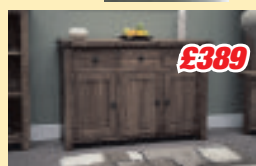


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June's high note as she is honoured for her work

FROM seven singers gathered around a piano in a living room to a place in the New Year Honours list – June Davenhill has come a long way in the last 50 years.

The musical director helped launch Pelsall Ladies Choir in 1963 and was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to music and the community in the Queen's New Year's Honours list.

The choir has now marked its 50th anniversary with around six times the number of original members.

Members organise charity concerts and have raised more than £40,000 for causes such as The British Lung Foundation and HeartCare. Great-grandmother-of-two Mrs Davenhill, aged 77, of Allens Lane, Pelsall, said: "I got told about the BEM in November and didn't quite believe it."

Pauline Kelsey has been a pillar of the community in Great Wyrley for 40 years – and says she was 'stunned' to find out she would receive the British Empire Medal.

Mrs Kelsey has helped organise the village's carnival since 1977 in her role as secretary of the event's committee, and is also a committee member at the Great Wyrley Townswomen's Guild, the village's senior

by David Banner

citizens centre and the local history society.

Lynette Hirst, head of enforcement and specialist offices in debt management and banking in Birmingham, was honoured for services to taxpayers. Jayne Leeson, of Cradley Heath, was awarded the MBE for services to people with intellectual disabilities. Ms Leeson is the chief executive of West Midlands-based Changing Our Lives.

Lecturer Dr Simon Cotton has welcomed his BEM honour for services to chemistry and education as a 'compliment to two unfashionable professions'. Dr Cotton, aged 67, taught for 30 years at state and independent schools and is now Honorary Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Birmingham University.



June Davenhill has been given a British Empire Medal

Unwanted gifts call

UNWANTED gifts can be handed over to charity shops in aid of a Midlands hospice. St Giles Hospice is appealing for people to hand over items they do not want to its shops.

These are based in areas including Walsall, Willenhall, Cannock and Dudley. Lynwen Truesdale, head of retail for St Giles, said: "We are only too happy to receive what would otherwise end up taking up valuable storage space."

"We understand that it can be embarrassing receiving a gift which you don't really need or want – or which you may already have – but if you decide to donate any unwanted presents to St Giles Hospice, you've no need to feel guilty anymore. Unwanted presents are vital for our successful charity shops, and by donating gifts they don't wish to keep, local people can make a positive start to the new year."

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Parking boost on way with backing

WORK on a new car park in front of shops which attracted support from more than 1,000 people could start in April, subject to agreed funding. Around £168,000 would need to be spent to transform the grassed area in front of shops in Lucknow Road, in Willenhall, into spaces for up to 22 vehicles.

A petition in favour of providing a car park, containing around 1,200 signatures, has been handed in to Walsall Council. Now the authority is looking to allocate funding as part of its draft capital programme.

A report as part of the budget states: "This scheme will provide a new off street car park with approximately 22 parking spaces to support the operation and vitality of the businesses at the Lucknow Road local shopping centre."

Meanwhile, a move to create extra parking by converting a grass verge into space for cars has taken a step forward. The work on Tildesley Drive, Willenhall, will now be considered for a slice of £250,000 funding after a consultation with residents led to it being named as the preferred option for a revamp.

Suggestions were put forward through the Willenhall area partnership and residents in the area voted overwhelmingly for the road to receive the revamp over others in the area.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires said that Tildesley Drive received 153 out of the 155 for votes cast and it now goes forward to be considered for a cash injection.

Only here for the beer, as micro-pubs pull in punters

NO TELEVISIONS, games machines or loud, blaring music, and hot food is certainly off the menu. Micro-pubs are a very different breed to the watering holes of most high streets.

They pride themselves on offering locally brewed real ales and fruity ciders, all in the confines of a single room.

And the concept of sipping pints and rubbing shoulders with the same old faces in the cosy setting of what feels like a front room is growing in popularity up and down the country.

In the past four years, around 40 micro-pubs have flung open their doors to drinkers. Twenty-four have opened in the past 12 months alone.

First

The first micro-pub to open in the West Midlands was Hail to the Ale, in Wolverhampton, run by a married couple who set up their own Morton Brewery six years ago based in Essington, near Willenhall.

In its first few months the pub has gone down a storm in the local area, according to owner Gary Morton, aged 53, who runs it with wife Angela, 50.

Mr Morton said: "Micro-pubs are a stripped down version of ordinary pubs. It has been going excellently since we opened."

"We opened our doors quietly on a Thursday evening. Within half an hour, all the tables and chairs were taken."

"The three weekends that followed, we were absolutely

by Laura Blyth

packed. People in the area felt something like this was needed.

"It's comfortable and nostalgic for people. It's a completely different concept."

"I imagine there'll be a couple of thousand more micro-pubs opening in the UK in the next few years."

Rather than chips straight out of the fryer served up in some pubs, Hail to the Ale dishes up traditional pub nibbles such as pork scratchings, pickled onions, pickled eggs and pies. And there isn't a cheap looking alepoc in sight, or any spirits.

Mr Morton continued: "Ordinary pubs try to do too much. They try to cater for too many people and end up not appealing to anyone."

"We came up with the idea to open a micro-pub in March. We'd seen a feature on micro-pubs on TV and thought it was perfect for us."

"We have a good group of regulars. But we are also seeing new faces coming in. It seems as if there are still people just finding out about us. We appeal to middle-aged to elderly people. But we've still had to ask for ID from time-to-time from some younger drinkers."



From left, David Bowden, John Penn and landlord Gary Morton at Hail to the Ale in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



Angela Morton ready to pull a pint at the micro-pub



Gary and Angela Morton outside their venture in the city

Growing firm will take over locks site

THE SITE of an historic lock-making firm is being taken over by a growing manufacturing business which will double its workforce, it has emerged.

The former Willenhall Locks factory has been bought by 1st Access UK Ltd which is also based in the town and is investing £100,000 in the first expansion phase.

The firm, set up six years ago by Willenhall-born ex firefighter Jason Loydon and his partner Vikki Lindop, had a £2 million turnover last year and currently employs around 25 workers.

And the pair plan to retain features such as old locks, light switches and pictures to keep the heritage of the former factory alive.

Staffing is anticipated to double within five years as part of the relocation into the bigger former lock firm premises between Stringes Lane and John Harper Street. The site, which had been put on the market for more than £300,000, was bought for an undisclosed sum ahead of an auction.

Willenhall Locks and Keys Ltd suddenly fell into administration in September, having been a key feature in the town since opening in the late 1950s. Twenty eight jobs were lost when the historic firm shut.

The firm specialises in creating roller shutter doors, shopfronts and automatic doors from its current base in Spring Road.

The move will see its floor-space increase from around 8,000 sq ft to 31,000 sq ft.

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NEWS

Joey keeps mum during visit to town nightspot



Samantha Allmark gets a big hug from Joey. SOME of the things he said saw Joey Essex hit the headlines when he confessed he couldn't tell the time or blow his nose, while on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Here.

But on a visit to the West Midlands the reality TV star remained more tight-lipped than usual.

The 23-year-old, who rose to fame after appearing in fly-on-the-wall show The Only Way is Essex, was in Walsall for an appearance at the WS1 nightclub.

He was in town as part of a promotional tour. And while he was happy to pose with fans he refused to talk about his antics Down Under or to make any



Crowds wait to have their picture taken with the Towie star

by Deborah Hardiman

comment over reports of a romance between him and model Amy Willerton, who also appeared in I'm A Celebrity.

"All I'm saying about the jungle is that I had a nice time. I've come here to do a personal appearance," he said.

Wearing skinny blue denims, black trainers and hoodie top, the Towie star had initially been lined up to speak to clubbers over the public address system on the packed ground floor of the club in Bridge Street.

But following a last minute change of plan he was whisked to the upstairs dance floor where fans were invited to queue up to meet him for a chat and

pose for photographs on Friday night.

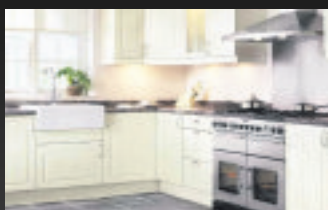
Among those to get his autograph was childcare trainee Samantha Allmark, aged 24, of Stanley Road, Rushall.

"He's lovely, but I wish I had more time to talk to him."

"He seems more with it when you meet him in person, than the things he does and says on the telly. He was brilliant in the jungle. I voted for him every night. My 11-year-old niece Sophie is his biggest fan."

WS1 boss Nick Parkinson said the club had pulled in big crowds over the festive period and he was pleased to play host to the Towie star, a coup for the nightclub.

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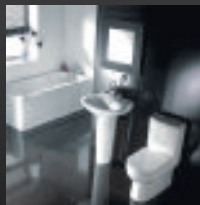


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ADVERTISING FEATURE



Pupils participate in a variety of activities

Positive way forward after Ofsted's visit

FOLLOWING a disappointing Ofsted inspection at Willenhall E-Act, the subsequent action plan has been put into swift effect.

This has involved a partnership with the twice outstanding Heartlands E-ACT Academy in Birmingham to increase the quality and consistency of teaching and learning throughout the academy.

A coaching scheme is being delivered, allowing staff to experiment and apply new ideas and this was facilitated through training by Barr Beacon Multi Academy Trust.

Progress

Principal Tom Ashley said: "It is by learning from other successful outstanding academies that rapid progress can be achieved."

Pupils also took part in a non-uniform day in aid of the Mandela Trust with students from each year group wearing a specific colour representing the rainbow nation that is South Africa.

This was an idea that came from the student council, which has made some intelligent contributions to the way forward for the academy. The academy ended 2013 on a high note and is looking forward to making more strides forward in 2014.

New principal heads up plans for further change



Chris Grayling MP took part in a Q&A session at Willenhall E-Act during a recent visit

IT HAS been another busy few weeks at Willenhall E-Act Academy with new principal Tom Ashley keen to raise standards further in all areas.

He will use his experience of rapidly raising standards in two West Midlands' schools to good effect at Willenhall as he knows that he has the staff to carry out

required actions. During a recent visit from the Government Academies Division it was stated that the academy should crack on with current improvements and that the academy had not waited for Ofsted to set in motion the initiatives required to build on the recent nine per cent rise in GCSE exam results.

Mr Ashley is keen to continue at a pace and the visit of HM Inspectors this week also confirmed the

academy was moving forwards in a positive direction.

Further to this, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice Chris Grayling MP stopped off at Willenhall to speak to post-16 law students at Willenhall E-Act on a visit to Walsall.

He spent an hour explaining his role to students and taking part in an informal question and answer session.

This also involved discussing



Megan Smart in the lead role as Dorothy in the academy's production of 'The Wiz'

possible links with a school in the Far East and the recent Willenhall students who had taken the Oxbridge entrance exams that Mr Grayling would also have taken when he was a student.

Outstanding

This was an exciting event for everyone involved and illustrated the inspiring opportunities and high academic standards that are a part of everyday life at Willenhall.

Also, students from all year groups took part in the musical production of 'The Wiz' at Willenhall last week, which was an outstanding success.

There were some spectacular performances from all students with Megan Smart starring as Dorothy and George Hill as 'The Wiz'. The cast played to several packed out audiences including a show to local partner primaries and a local community group.



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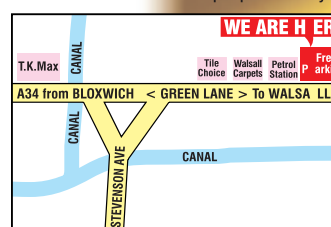
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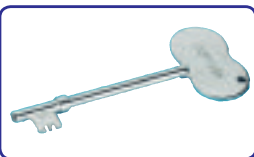
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NEWS

Shoppers' sadness as Hooty's finally closes



Aladdin's cave - making the most of Hooty's final day of trading are Sharron Kocil and her daughter Hayley Kocil. **IT WAS** the end of an era for a landmark discount store that has been an Aladdin's cave of treasures for 50 years.

Half a century after Hooty's opened its doors, customers paid their last visits to the Rose Hill site in Willenhall as it stopped trading last week.

The nature of the closure remains unclear but it is believed the Longacres Industrial Estate premises will be revamped and taken over by home store The Range.

The future of the present staff at the store has not been made public. Bosses at the store said last week

by Simon Stone

there would be no comment or statement from the firm about the closure or on the future of sites in Kidderminster and Birmingham.

A sign on the gates to the premises stated: "With regret our last trading day is Tuesday 31 December. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers for their support over the past 50 years."

The store was busy with shoppers making their final visit last Tuesday, while inside the store was a shadow of its former self with empty shelves and low levels of stock.

Retired Mike Reed has been shopping at the store for decades and paid

tribute to the staff. "It will be sorely missed," said the 80-year-old from Willenhall. "The one thing I hope is that the staff get given new jobs if there is the takeover. The staff are wonderful. They go out of their way to help you."

Sharron Kocil, aged 44, and her daughter Hayley, 23, left the store for the last time. "It will not feel the same without," said Sharron from New Invention. "I have been coming here since I was a child and I was really gutted when we found out it was going to be closing."

Hayley added: "You can always get what you need in Hooty's. It has just always been here and it is sad that such a household name in this area is going to be no more."

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Edmund Howdle

Parrys blazing the trail with luxury coach travel

AWARD-winning coach tour company Parrys International is all set for a bumper year in 2014, after customer power persuaded the Cheslyn Hay firm to continue for the next few years.

After 40 successful years Managing Director Dave Parry had announced his retirement and that the firm would close, but after a huge outcry from both customers, trade and hotel suppliers, he was persuaded to change his mind.

Now it's business as usual with a fantastic programme of coach holidays, short breaks and a full investment of more than £4 million in new, luxury Coaches.

Parrys International already have the reputation of providing the best touring coaches in the UK. This has been taken to a new level with in seat entertainment built to every Coach – the first touring fleet in the world to provide such a system.

Facilities

Complimentary headsets will be provided for all long haul tours and together with the other on-board facilities, they will provide the ultimate in luxury coach travel – the same as long haul aircraft.

Parrys operate quality UK Coach tours in association with big hotel names such as Hilton and Marriott.

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Parrys has just released its 2014 holiday



Just one of Parrys exclusive luxury coaches which can take you in comfort and style all over the UK and Europe

brochure packed with new and favourite tours and popular weekends.

Once again the company will be main team sponsors of Wolverhampton speedway for a record 14th Year. This Sunday, January 12, Parrys International opens to the public with their annual open day.

There will be trade exhibitors, coaches on display, special offers and lots of interesting items including the management and a star rider from Wolverhampton speedway. It will be open from 10am to 3pm.

It all takes place at the Cheslyn Hay site, Landywood Green, off Landywood Lane

near Landywood Railway Station. Other Coach firms have tried to copy or follow Parrys International but the Company remains one of the most respected coach tour operators in the United Kingdom and will remain so for some years to come.



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Settle in, relax and then take Dinner in the Restaurant.

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View the remarkable interiors used in the filming of the scenes and the extensive Gardens – Taking you back in time to this remarkable period.

Our day also includes a visit to the historic City of Winchester with its many attractions, Museums, Shops and magnificent Cathedral.

Dinner is included again at the Hilton this Evening.

DAY THREE

Our breakfast is taken at leisure and we then depart to the village of 'Downton', where the outdoor views of the Church and Hospital are recorded.

From here we make a Lunch stop at the Oxfordshire Village of Woodstock before continuing to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Good Ofsted report shows real progress of academy



Choosing the right education provider is paramount

EPIC lessons

CHOOSING a secondary school for your child is arguably the biggest decision you will ever make in your lifetime, so it's very important to get it right.

"To describe the quality of teaching at Joseph Leckie Academy as 'good' is something of an understatement," says principal Keith Whittlestone, who constantly encourages his staff to teach EPIC lessons – lessons that are Exciting, have Pace, Include all students and Challenge them, too.

Teachers at the academy prepare and deliver lessons of exceptional quality, and it is no coincidence that this year has seen record-breaking examination results.

"At Joseph Leckie, we work with parents as well as students to achieve the best possible results," says Mr Whittlestone. "None of this would be possible without the drive, dedication and energy of the teaching staff. Our teachers work tirelessly to produce imaginative lessons that inspire the youngsters in their care. Caring is central to all that we do at Joseph Leckie. The academy has repeatedly been praised on the quality of its care, guidance and support for students, not only in the classroom, but throughout their daily lives.

"Morality, spirituality, social issues and cultural awareness all feature in the courses we offer as we commit to educate the whole child, so that they become well placed to make a contribution to the wider community when they leave Joseph Leckie Academy."

Teachers work hard to build positive relationships with students and this was noted by Ofsted in April 2013, "Relationships between teachers and students are very good. Students respect teachers' subject expertise and talk positively about the support teachers give them".

Teachers stretch and challenge every student according to their ability and interests, and they do this with kindness and sensitivity.

Whatever your child's abilities and aptitudes, staff will work hard to find and develop your child's strengths.

At Joseph Leckie Academy we pride ourselves on the achievements of our students which have improved significantly over recent years – writes principal **KEITH WHITTLESTONE**

IN APRIL 2013, Ofsted graded achievement as good, stating: "Students do well and make good progress during their time at the school".

In 2012, Joseph Leckie Academy – based in Walstead Road West, in Walsall – was placed in the top 10 per cent of schools nationally for student progress with English and maths at the end of Key Stage 4, an achievement of which we are very proud.

This year, 94 per cent of students in Year 11 gained five or more GCSE equivalent qualifications, enabling them to continue on to A-level or equivalent courses or employment. Over the last three years there has been an improvement of 28 per cent.

These improvements are due in part to an extended curriculum offer, with 28 diverse courses available for students to study – allowing them to succeed whatever their abilities or strengths.

The curriculum within Joseph Leckie Academy is designed to ensure success from the moment they enter in Year 7 and allows them to progress throughout their education.

The vast majority of students in Year 10 and 11 will be placed on a personalised curriculum and supported through this by



The Joseph Leckie Academy finalists at the Technology 4 Good Youth Awards

mentors and designated staff to ensure they succeed.

Where they have an enthusiasm and aptitude for a subject, students are given the opportunity to sit examinations at the end of Year 10, allowing them to study additional subjects they may have an interest in such as economics, citizenship, art and statistics.

Quality

To support this, the academy has a designated GCSE study centre with dedicated staff and resources to ensure all receive the necessary support and advice.

Another major factor in our success is the quality of teaching at the academy, which was graded as good in April 2013.

Ofsted said, "Good teaching means that students enjoy learning and make good progress".

Teachers at the academy care about the future of the students and strive to ensure they achieve their very best at all times.

Students' achievements in the academy sixth form has also improved during the last three years with the overall pass rate in Year 13 being 97 per cent in 2013.

Fifteen of the 20 subjects offered gained a 100 per cent pass rate, with the vast majority of subjects gaining more than 95 per cent pass rate.

From this month, the number of courses available has been increased to ensure that students can progress from Year 11 to an appropriate course in the sixth form – and



Ofsted recognised positive behaviour

then on to university or employment. Ofsted said, "The sixth form is good. It provides students with suitable courses and with opportunities to achieve well".

Student behaviour within lessons – and throughout Joseph Leckie Academy as a whole – contributes significantly to their learning and achievement, with Ofsted grading behaviour as Good in April 2013.

Students are engaged in their own learning and have a genuine desire to succeed. Excellent behaviour during lessons means that learning takes place in a supportive environment where all can achieve.

Ofsted said, "Students are respectful of each other and of staff. They want to achieve well. Their good attitudes contribute to a calm, cooperative atmosphere".

Joseph Leckie Academy

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£1.4m sports hall plays a key role in vision of future



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls aims to help its pupils to achieve outstanding outcomes

A MUCH-anticipated building project to construct a new sports hall is well underway at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls.

Demolition of the old 1930s gymnasium and the redevelopment

ment of sports facilities has been a priority at the school for a number of years.

The work was finally made possible with the awarding of a £790,000 Government grant.

The remaining money was secured through the fund-raising efforts of the governing body, students, staff, the parents' association,

old girls' association and the generosity of individual benefactors including former Aston Villa chairman, Sir Doug Ellis.

The exciting plans for the new sports hall include a floor space four times bigger than the old gymnasium, with much larger changing rooms and an additional community space where school and other



The new sports facility is well under way due to a Government grant

local sports events will be promoted.

The new facilities are due to be complete by April 2014.

Headteacher, Maggie Shackleton, said: "The heart of our vision at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls is to ensure outstanding outcomes for every student."

Redeveloped sports facilities will

help us to ensure these outcomes, as well as being a sporting legacy for generations to come, both in school and in the wider community.

The success of Team GB's women athletes at London 2012 made us even more determined to ensure facilities worthy of such a legacy."

Call 0121 354 1479 for details.

Deadline nears for hopefuls



Half of pupils achieved A*-A grades at A-level

THE DEADLINE for applications to Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls is Wednesday, January 15, where in 2013, 82.5 per cent of pupils achieved A-level grades at A-B and 50 per cent were A* to A grade.

The environment at the school aims to create opportunities for girls to flourish. One student made a comment which encapsulates life at the grammar school, she said: "I have loved every moment at Sutton Girls and have made some friends for life."

There is a wide range of subject offered at A-level from biology, fine art and physics to maths, Spanish and design and technology with a selection of extension studies also available.

Application forms are available to download from the sixth form section of the school's website, visit www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk or call 0121 354 1479.

Alternatively, arrange a visit to the campus which is located at Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5PT.

SUTTON COLDFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO OUR
SIXTH FORM
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In 2013, 82.5% of A level grades were A*-B and 50% were A*-A.

**'I have loved every moment at Sutton Girls
and have made some friends for life'**

This comment from a student encapsulates life at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls.
We offer the environment and opportunities to enable your daughter to flourish.

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Application forms are available to download from the Sixth Form section of our website.

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MEMORY LANE



Oldbury Rep – a scene from Merchant of Venice, 1956



Beginnings – Oldbury Parish Rooms, where it all started



The theatre group in a scene from Red Peppers in 1956



Barlow Playhouse, which is now the Barlow Theatre



A very young Doreen seen on stage at the theatre as Aladdin in 1955



Panto – Georgina Smith and Aiden Colwell



Doreen Bastable, aged 85

The shows go on

THEY HAVE survived a world war and an arson attack which completely gutted their theatre, but as the new year begins, one amateur dramatics group will be celebrating its 75th season.

Started in 1939, The Oldbury Repertory Players, or Oldbury Rep as they are better known, are currently staging their 490th major production – Jack And The Beanstalk.

Over the years more than 1,000 different people have graced their stage, including three generations of the same families. Relationships have also been forged within the group, with some meeting their spouses on stage.

One of those to meet their partners at the group was Doreen Bastable, aged 85,

by Adam Grinsell

who has been chairman of the Rep for 35 years and a member for 70 years since she was 15.

Mrs Bastable, from Mucklow Hill in Halesowen, said: "My husband Daniel was a builder, and he helped to make the theatre what it is today – he helped to reconstruct the building when we bought it. We were married in 1959 after I met him a couple of years before when I was performing."

Mr Bastable was also very involved in the reconstruction of the theatre after an arson attack destroyed almost everything in the 1972. Mrs Bastable added: "That was a blow, but we raised ourselves from the ashes."

The Oldbury Repertory Players were formed by the attendees of an elocution night class at Oldbury Technical School just before the outbreak of the Second

World War, and started in the Oldbury Parish Rooms.

Their first performance was a self-grown stageshow called Tonight At 7.30, involving various sketches, and they continued right through the war.

"It was a struggle to start with," Mrs Bastable said. "People were being called up to the forces or to do shift work, but we did survive."

As the company continued to grow, it purchased the Methodist Chapel and School in Spring Street, now Spring Walk, in Langley, for £1,700 thanks to an interest free loan from the company's then president CT Barlow.

Over the next few years the chapel was converted into a theatre and in January 1956 opened as 'The Barlow Playhouse' – it is now known as Barlow Theatre, and has its own bar and 173-seat auditorium.

The parents of company secretary Christopher Smith, 56, were founder

members of the group, and he also met his wife Lisa there.

His daughters Cassandra and Georgina have both performed with the group too – Georgina is playing the Princess in the latest production.

He said: "The company gives you a comradeship, it's a friendship – we have a great social life with things like quiz nights, so it's not just about rehearsing and putting on plays."

Company members, which in the past have included Old Hill comedienne and former Eastenders actress Josie Lawrence in their ranks, also build the sets, do the lighting, work behind the bars and do the marketing. It receives no grants, so the only way it makes any money is by 'putting bums on seats'.

Jack And The Beanstalk takes place from January 10 to 18. To buy tickets and for more information about the company, including how to become a member, see www.oldburyrep.org

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE FIRST cohort of students at the brand new Walsall Studio School and Sixth Form have experienced an action-packed first term.

Students aged 14-19 yrs have delivered live Studio Showcase performance events to invited guests, parents and local employers in the outstanding 400-seater auditorium.

They have also been amongst the very first to perform live to audiences across the UK (as well as partner schools in France) using the online TV broadcast studio within the school.

The studio school which opened in September 2013 and is now recruiting Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students for September 2014 is located in the Goldmine Centre, Lower Hall Lane.

The school specialises in Business Social Enterprise, Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Broadcast, Digital and Social Media.

During the first term students have hosted and participated in workshops and professional networking events with a range of local employers including Strand Hardware, Mid-Countries Cooperative and AF Blakemores who are also offering weekly work placements to students.

Challenge

Additionally, students at the school have enjoyed the opportunities of learning from prominent national business leaders including the Chair of IBM UK and the Deputy CEO of Barclays.

Students at the studio school study using real live projects, where a real world challenge is met through students sharing their expertise and experiences collaboratively in teams.

This idea has been developed further with students sharing experiences with other young professionals outside of the Walsall – working with students in France, developing their language skills through Skype conversations each week.

Creative professionals visit the school each week to support, challenge and coach students in a series of workshops demonstrating what it is like to be a freelance practitioner. The school has real expertise in

Focusing on a successful year at brand new school



Budding entrepreneur, student Keanu Chang explains his ideas to IBM chief Stephen Leonard

bringing together emerging creative professionals and young entrepreneurs.

Students at the Studio School understand that the Creative Industries and Business Enterprise need to work closely together.

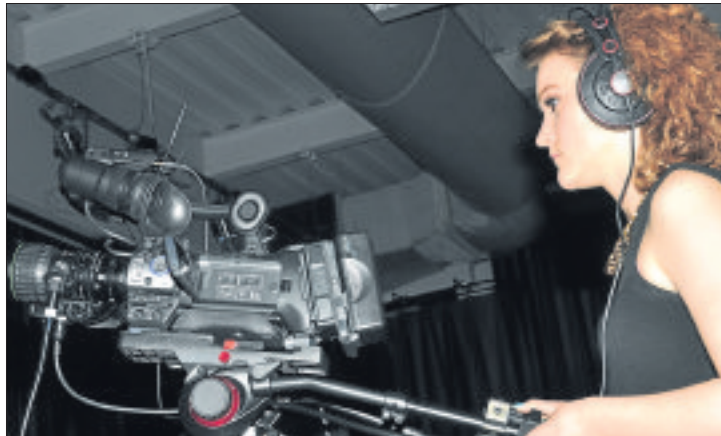
The studio school prepares its students for the real world, so works to develop these practices from the very start.

With a strong Christian ethos and clear values evident throughout the school students are encouraged to

invest their time, talents and effort in making a difference in their local community and across the world.

The school launched its Social Enterprise Academy in November as part of Global Entrepreneurs Week.

"Our students have the drive and the will to see social change. Our Social Enterprise Academy is at the heart of our curriculum, and our students have work experience placements with social enterprises to nurture their ideas." Dan Parkes, Principal Walsall Studio School



Walsall Studio School and sixth form student Molly Gibson operating a broadcast camera

Walsall Studio School is a small, professional school for 14-19 year olds. It is renowned for its family atmosphere and focus on each individual student.

The school's unique GCSE, 2-year Studio Sixth Form and 1-year Studio Bridge fast track programmes enable young people to achieve industry-recognised qualifications, build relationships with employers and get into employment or university.

Walsall Studio School provides an environment where enthusiasm for business, creativity and collaborative

cross-curricular teamwork drive new learning and prepare students for a broad range of exciting career pathways with a personalised learning experience for all our students in a close-knit family environment where we prioritise personal discipline, respect and care for each other and our community.

Students in Years 10 and 11 study a range of GCSEs and BTEC qualifications but also have opportunities to specialise in the vocational pathways that they are looking to build their

careers within – namely Business Enterprise and the Creative Media and Performance Industries.

Parents interested in finding out more about the Studio School should contact the school office on 01922 621 951 EXT 321 to book into one of the open evenings each Monday 4.30pm – 6.30pm or later by appointment. Places are available for September 2014 entry for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form.

More information is available at walsallstudioschool.co.uk



YEAR 10 AND SIXTH FORM PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

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Lake Garda

Eight days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £349**

- Return flights
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Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Krakow

Four days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £419**

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- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

The Grand National

Two days departing April 5

 **PRICE FROM £129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Steeplechase Enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Visit to Chester
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Springtime at Eden and The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Four days departing March 28

 **PRICE FROM £199**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Eden Project and The Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Visit to Torquay
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Beamish and the North York Moors Railway

Four days departing June 20, October 10

 **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Admission to Beamish - The Living Museum of the North
- Ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Florimania at Hampton Court Palace

Two days departing March 29

 **PRICE FROM £109**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace and Gardens for Florimania
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £139.95**

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is King in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in a four-star outer-London hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)



Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £719**

The Sorrento peninsula and Bay of Naples form one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, rich in history, boasting breathtaking scenery and of course, first class cuisine, particularly seafood, pasta and wine.

On this holiday a choice of hotels is offered in and around the town of Sorrento. Tiny cobbled streets, quaint squares, and home to numerous bistros and restaurants along with lofty palm trees and flowers climbing crumbling walls, this is a typical Italian town and a perfect holiday base from where to explore the region.



Excursions include a boat trip to the beautiful island of Capri, home to the famous Blue Grotto; the city of Pompeii, whose state of preservation is astonishing; a visit to the still-active volcano of Vesuvius, and a visit to Naples, home to the Archaeological Museum that houses some of the finest finds from the nearby excavations.

The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tours of Pompeii and Sorrento
- Visits to Naples and Ravello
- Cruise to Capri
- Visit to the volcano of Vesuvius
- Tour of the Amalfi coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)





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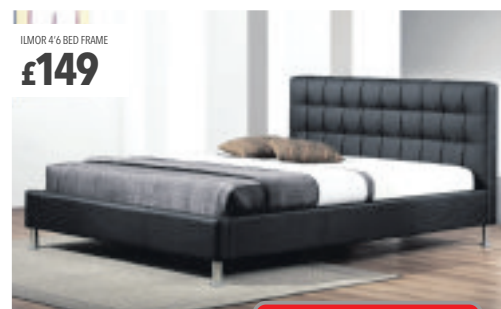
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 11.01.14

CHOICE



Shane Richie

Reflex BBC1, 6.15pm
In EastEnders this week, Alfie begins planning a trip to Australia. Is it because he's already fed up of being reunited with Kat – or did Shane Richie need a break so he could host this promising new game show? Yes, the actor is getting back to his light entertainment roots with Reflex, which is all about reaction times. Each week, two teams of three family members will be tested in a series of challenges designed to find out who has the speediest reflexes. And that could involve anything from being fired into the air to responding to explosions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Good Cook. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross-Country. 2.45 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.30 Dynamo: Magician Impossible. 6.15 Reflex. New series. Shane Richie hosts this game show in which two families battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. The first contestants are from London and Essex.
7.00 The Voice UK. New series. Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson join Tom Jones and Will.I.am as coaches in the return of the chair-spinning singing contest.
8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects.
9.20 Casualty. Lily and new doctor Ethan try to diagnose what is wrong with a teacher showing strange symptoms, while Zoe and Tess fight to save the life of Dixie's girlfriend.
10.10 BBC News; Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Hull City v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.
1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.30 Film: The Informer. (1935) 7.55 Film: I Married a Witch. (1942) 9.10 Live on Earth. (R) 10.05 Life on Earth. (R) 11.00 Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. 12.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening. 12.50 Film: Summer Magic. (1963) 2.35 Film: The Go-Between. (1971) 4.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. 6.00 Flag III Contestants in Swansea hope a Moorcroft vase will beat their Hartlepool rivals' Clarice Cliff pottery at auction. (R)
7.00 Nature's Wildest Events. Chris Packham investigates reports of fish "walking" out of the water in Florida, bees in France that are making multicoloured honey, and trees oozing a blood-red liquid. (R)
8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit. (R)
8.30 Marmite & Cheese: The Curtains. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they chatted to each other – and their guests – in front of the stage curtains. (R)
9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. With Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr.
10.15 Film: Burke and Hare. (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg.
11.40 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the eighth day at the Lakeside Country Club.
12.30 Film: They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969) 2.25 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Animals. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.40 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.50 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.05 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.15 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Victorious. 9.00 Deadline Stories. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 10.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 Countrywide. (R) 11.45 ITV News; Weather. 11.55 Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) 1.55 The Chase. (R) 2.55 Boyzone at 20: No Matter What. (R) 3.55 Show Me the Telly. (R) 4.55 Regional Programme. 5.20 Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006)
7.00 Splash! Another line-up of celebrities compete for two places in the semi-final of the diving contest, under the tutelage of Tom Daley. Hosted by Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan.
8.30 Take Me Out. A psychic single dad, a bodybuilder, a train enthusiast and a children's party planner try to win a date with one of 30 single women.
9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host invites Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart, ice-dancer duo Torvill and Dean, funnyman Griff Rhys Jones and businesswoman Karen Brady for a chat. Kodjane provide the music.
10.45 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 Film: Miami Vice. (2006) Crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx.
1.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 American Football Playoff Highlights. (R) 7.00 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Live. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 10.00 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Taste. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.05 Channel 4 News. 4.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me. Engineer Brian Hodges hosts the penultimate dinner party in Nottingham and decides to help out in the kitchen. (R)
6.45 Come Dine with Me. Barry Dickman hosts the final dinner party in Nottingham. (R)
7.15 Film: Crocodile Dundee. (1986) An Australian hunter with a larger-than-life reputation accompanies a reporter from the Outback to the urban jungle of Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski.
9.00 Hostages. New series. A surgeon faces a moral dilemma when masked men take her family hostage and order her to kill her next patient – the US president. Thriller, starring Toni Collette.
10.00 Film: Wanted. (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.
12.00 Film: House of Flying Daggers. (2004) 2.10 Hollywood. (R) 4.20 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce. 10.35 Sluggerra. 11.00 Access. 11.05 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 12.30 World's Busiest Hotel. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.30 Film: Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) 4.05 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 5.05 Diagnosis Murder. (R)
6.05 Mr & Mrs Murder. Charlie and Nicola are called to clean up a crime scene at a golf club after a dispute between dog walkers and players results in murder.
7.00 CSI: NY. A teenager is shot in front of his younger brother. (R)
7.45 NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood. (R)
8.40 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)
9.40 5 News Weekend. 9.45 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.05 True CSI. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.40** Family Guy **BBC Four**
8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story **ITV2**
2.30 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.30** You've Been Framed! **6.30** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **8.30** Film: Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) **10.50** Film: The Maguluf Weekender **11.55** Film: The Interpreter (2004) **ITV3**
9.05am Agatha Christie's Poirot. Back-to-back episodes. **11.00** Prime Suspect. A country club murder is found dead.
ITV4
3.45 Film: A Reason to Live. A Reason to Die (1972) **5.35** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.10** Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **10.00** Film: Firefox (1982) **E4**
4.00 2 Broke Girls **5.00** Rules of Engagement **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: What Happens in Vegas (2008) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube: Epic Skills **Film4**
3.10 Film: Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ian Gruffudd. **9.00** Dogma (1999) Comedy fantasy, with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino. **11.25** Evil Dead II (1987)

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We're all prone to make New Year resolutions – eating healthily, walking more and shedding a few pounds to name a few. Many of those intentions involve lifestyle decisions and seizing the opportunity for change. A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true and none more so for the effervescent Ann Skitt of Willenhall, who made a New Year resolution to ditch her old, troublesome dentures and get a brand new smile. Is this the right time for you to do the same?

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Stummey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport. Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she cooos: charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself as popular hairdressers

model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon whenever she fancys a new look. "I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Joseph Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But falling teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked. If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCSI(Eng) GDC 106033 and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up the courage to see Steve.

I knew exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed."

"I told Steve I didn't want teeth like Cilla Black or Stacey Solomon, they would not look good on someone my age," she adds.

Husband Brian is full of praise – "It's taken years off her and the teeth are just perfect for her."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathan Pugh BSc MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

A long-standing working relationship between Jon and Steve has fused two dental disciplines which continues to enjoy excellent clinical outcomes.

"Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too," says Ann.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Simon Reeve

The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 8pm
 Adventurer Simon Reeve is getting out and about again. He's not long back from his jaunt to the other side of the world after his exploration of Australia, but you can't keep this man on terra firma for too long, so this time he's jetting off to Africa where he's looking into the stories behind our favourite beverage – tea. He's in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, where most of the leaves for tea bags are bought at auction, before moving on through eastern Africa to meet some of the millions of people who pick, pack and transport it.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 7.35 Match of the Day, (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 10.00 The Big Questions, 11.00 Sunday Politics, 12.15 MOTD2 Extra, 1.00 BBC News, Weather, 1.15 Moving On, (R) 2.00 Bargain Hunt, (R) 2.45 Real Lives Reunited, (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country, (R) 4.00 Songs of Praise, 4.35 Dolphins – Spy in the Pod, (R) 5.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather, 6.00
Countryside. John Craven and Helen Skelton head to Surrey, where he explores the countryside favoured by Arthur Conan Doyle and she talks to an artist with an all-consuming passion for horses.
7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. Last in the series.
7.30 Antiques Roadshow. From the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich.
8.30 Sherlock. The consulting detective takes on master blackmailer Charles Augustus Magnusson, a man who knows the secrets of every person of importance in the Western world. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Newcastle United v Manchester City.
11.25 The Revolution Will Be Televised. Satirical comedy sketches. James and Barnaby visit Brussels.
11.55 Film: Cemetery Junction. (2010) Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke.
1.25 Weatherview, 1.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, 6.40 Film: A Woman's Secret. (1949) Mystery, starring Maureen O'Hara, 8.05 Monty Don's French Gardens, (R) 9.05 Countryside, (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites, 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds, (R) 12.15 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds, (R) 1.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. 5.00 Ski Sunday, 5.45 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final, 8.00
The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the tea industry in eastern Africa, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK.
9.00 Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. The historian and his team conclude their recreation of the pioneering 280-mile expedition through the natural wonder that was led by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.
10.00 Film: Let Me In. (2010) Premiere. A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, with Chloe Grace Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee.
11.50 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v John Higgins. Hazel Irvine presents action from the second match in round one of the non-ranking tournament at Alexandra Palace in London.
12.40 Snooker Extra. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. 2.40 Sign Zone: Countryside, (R) 3.35 Holy City. Jac goes into early labour. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan, 6.10 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.30 Dino Dan, (R) 6.40 Dino Dan, (R) 6.50 Animals, (R) 6.55 Animals, (R) 7.05 Animals, (R) 7.15 Sooty, (R) 7.25 Sooty, (R) 7.40 Almost Naked Animals, (R) 7.50 Almost Naked Animals, (R) 8.05 Horrid Henry, (R) 8.15 Horrid Henry, (R) 8.30 Victorious, 9.00 Deedee's Story, (R) 9.25 ITV News, 9.30 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 10.30 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 11.30 ITV News; Weather, 11.35 Inside the National Trust, 12.35 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries, (R) 1.35 Catchphrase, (R) 2.20 Splash!, (R) 3.50 All Star Mr & Mrs, (R) 4.50 The Chase: Celebrity Special, (R) 5.50 Regional Programme; Weather, 6.00
ITV News; Weather, 6.15 Dancing on Ice. The second seven celebrities take to the ice.
7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Paul Potts and Ann Widdecombe.
8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. Two more couples leave the competition.
9.00 I'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst. Compilation of clangers from the programme's history.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather, 10.15 Birds of a Feather. Dorien discovers she has no money. Sitcom, with Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, (R)
10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Mary Berry. The Great British Bake Off judge looks back on her life and career.
11.45 River Monsters. (R)
12.10 The Store, 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, 3.00 ITV Nightscreen, 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show, (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs, (R) 6.35 The Hoobs, (R) 7.00 Will & Grace, (R) 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.25 Frasier, (R) 8.55 Frasier, (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch, 12.30 How I Met Your Mother, (R) 1.00 How I Met Your Mother, (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 2.25 The Simpsons, (R) 3.00 The Simpsons, (R) 3.30 Film: 27 Dresses, (2008) 5.40 Deal or No Deal, 6.35
Channel 4 News, 7.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty present dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier, joined by guests including athlete Usain Bolt, who prepares jerk pork, (R)
8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world.
9.00 Film: Fast Five. (2011) Premiere. A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Adventure, starring Vin Diesel.
11.35 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
1.40 Southland, (R) 2.25 Coming Up: Sink or Swim, (R) 2.50 How Not to Get Old, (R) 3.45 Secret Eaters, (R) 4.40 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent, (R) 5.35 Deal or No Deal, (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig, 6.05 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 6.15 Film: The Flowertots, (R) 6.25 Bubble Guppies, (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show, (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet, (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too, (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas, (R) 7.20 Mio Mao, (R) 7.30 Make Way for Noddy, (R) 7.40 City of Friends, (R) 7.50 Milkshake! Monkey, (R) 7.55 Little Princess, (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky, (R) 8.20 Angelina Ballerina, (R) 8.40 Rupert Bear, (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 9.15 Jelly Jam, (R) 9.30 LazyTown, (R) 10.00 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) 10.10 Power Rangers: Super Samurai, (R) 10.45 Sluggert, (R) 11.05 Access: 11.10 Celebrity Big Brother, (R) 12.10 World's Worst Holiday Horrors, (R) 1.15 Film: Holes, (2003) 3.30 Film: Space Jam, (1996) 5.10 5 News Weekend, 5.15 Film: Loch Ness, (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson.
7.05 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.
10.00 Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman.
11.55 Hens Behaving Badly. A bride-to-be parties in Newcastle before emigrating to Australia, (R)
12.55 SuperCasino, 3.05 My Depression Diaries: Kerry Katona, (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS, (R) 4.25 Make It Big, (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm, (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline, (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm, (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show, (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline, (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK 8.35 Film: 102 Dalmatians (2000) 10.05 Family Guy 10.50 American Dad! 11.35 Bad Education
BBC Four
7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways 9.00 Len Goodman's Dance Band Days 10.00 Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes – The Many Faces of a Master Detective 11.00 Film: White Elephant (2012)
ITV2
3.30 Film: Step Up (2006) 5.45 Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) 8.00 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays 9.00 The Magul! Weekend 10.00 Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004)
ITV3
9.00 Being Poirot 10.00 Film: In the Name of the Father (1993)
ITV4
1.10 Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) 4.35 Film: Horizons West (1952) 6.15 Film: The Gimmick Kid (1952) 8.00 Dirty Britain 9.00 Film: Absolute Power (1997) 11.30 Film: The Enforcer (1976)
E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 5.00 The Tomorrow People 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 Film: Dragonball Evolution (2009) 9.40 Rude Tube 10.50 The Big Bang Theory 11.20 How I Met Your Mother
Film4
3.25 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) 5.10 The Truman Show (1998) 7.15 Post Grad (2009) 9.00 Coming to America (1988) An African prince journeys to the USA to escape an arranged marriage and search for a worthy wife. Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall. 11.15 Sixteen Candles (1985)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

300, ITV, 10.35pm

Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the vast invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley's comic-book series, starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, David Wenham and Rodrigo Santoro. (2006)

TUESDAY

Disturbia, BBC1, 11.35pm

A troubled teenager is sentenced to three months under house arrest for attacking a teacher, and passes the time by spying on his neighbours. However, one day he notices something suspicious and becomes convinced one of them is a serial killer. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Carrie-Anne Moss, David Morse and Sarah Roemer. (2007)



Tropic Thunder, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.05pm

A director's epic Vietnam picture is behind schedule and over budget. Taking the advice of the grizzled war veteran on whose life the film is based, he drops the actors into a jungle with the intention of filming them fighting guerrilla-style – but the cast is unaware the surrounding warfare is genuine. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black, Steve Coogan and, in an Oscar-nominated role, Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

THURSDAY

Avenging Angel, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A preacher dusts off his gun after outlaws murder his wife and child, destroy his church and wreak havoc in the town. Turning his back on the cloth, he heads for the desert to begin a new life as a bounty hunter, only to return to the community several years later. Finding the villains are still there and causing trouble, he decides to make them pay. Western, with Kevin Sorbo, Wings Hauser, Nick Chinlund, Cynthia Watros, Fred Cross, Jim Haynie, Richard Lee Jackson and Joey King. (2007)

FRIDAY

Saw II, Channel 4, 11.35pm

The sinister criminal Jigsaw is preparing to mete out his deranged and sadistic form of justice on more hapless victims. Meanwhile, a cop is desperately searching for the madman and the gruesome prison where he is holding eight terrified strangers. Horror sequel, starring Donnie Wahlberg, Shawnee Smith, Tobin Bell, Franky G, Glenn Plummer, Dina Meyer, Emmanuelle Vaugier and Beverley Mitchell. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Latest case is far from elementary for Holmes

Take a deep breath Sherlock fans and prepare for the end. Yes, it's the final episode of the current run, and considering the reaction to the last series' finale, it's anyone's guess how millions of fans will cope.

There's a good bet Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) won't be killed off – again, but how safe is John Watson (Martin Freeman)?

Has the sleuth finally met his match as he clashes with Charles Augustus Magnusson (Lars Mikkelsen), aka the Napoleon of blackmail?

He's a man who knows the personal weakness of every person of importance in the Western world, and Holmes loathes him for his most unscrupulous line of criminal business.

As ever, Steven Moffat has penned what promises to be a cracking instalment, and while we have no clue as to whether a fourth series will see the light of day, we can but hope Moffat and co-creator Mark Gatiss work their magic with the many other

Holmes tales which have yet to be given a 21st-century spin.

Martin Freeman had a great time making the new series, especially during the first read through.

"It was good – it had a kind of familiarity about it, we had new people joining which was lovely," he explains. "Given that it was our third time, or fourth including the pilot, it just feels nice and familiar. It's always exciting because the scripts are so good."

Two years after he witnessed his best friend's death, it was inevitable John Watson would take time to heal before he could move on.

"His best friend had died horribly in front of him, which took a long time to get over, but the way that his life has moved on is that he has fallen in love with Mary," explains Freeman.

(Mary is played by Martin's real-life partner Amanda Abbington in case you missed their charming appearance together on The One Show before Christmas).

"He is leading a functional, normalish life really which doesn't have the

highs and lows of his life with Sherlock but is certainly a bit more steady. But there is a sadness with John which will always be with him when you lose someone that you love – he is slightly dulled by life."

The last series was topped and tailed by a couple of standout episodes. Some fans think A Scandal in Belgravia was the best episode to date, while others think The Reichenbach Falls takes some beating.

But what is Freeman's favourite episode?

"I have to say the ones that we have just filmed have been brilliant," he enthuses. "Before that, probably Reichenbach was my favourite one to do because when we read it I was really, really excited and I thought the finished product was amazing. It was one of the best things that I've ever done and am likely to do for a while."

With good support from Gatiss, Una Stubbs, Louise Brealey, and Rupert Graves, this should either leave you amazed, and possibly a bit miffed if it's another cliffhanger.



Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Sherlock, Sunday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Go Hard or Go Home Channel 5, 8pm

It's a brand new year, and all that turkey is still sitting heavy (according to the weighing scales at least), so it's little wonder our attention is turning towards getting fit again. And if you needed any more motivation, look no further than this four-part series. It sees ordinary members of the public taking part in some of the world's most extreme endurance races, with only 12 weeks to train. This is the brainchild of Hannah White, who's sailed the Atlantic three times solo and is a competitive long-distance cyclist, mountain biker and runner. In this first episode, she's training up four doctors before they face The Bonebreaker, a 127-mile bike race that runs through the high peaks of the Pyrenees, crossing the Franco-Spanish border twice.

Dave: Loan Ranger Channel 4, 10pm

Dave Fishwick has already shown that he's got clout when it comes to matters of money, after successfully fighting the regulators to open his own small 'depository' in the Bank of Dave series. But he's still not satisfied because since opening his bank, he's seen first-hand how the poorest in society can become saddled with unthinkable amounts of debt after borrowing money from a new breed of moneylenders – payday loan companies. So Dave's on a new mission to help these people out, and tests out a selection of high-risk loans for people who have got into payday loan problems, offering them a preferable rate of interest in an attempt to get them back on track.

TUESDAY

The Taste Channel 4, 9pm

Just when you thought every possible culinary show format had been exhausted, along comes another one to shake the genre up a little bit. Last week, viewers saw TV cook Nigella Lawson, food maverick Anthony Bourdain and chef Ludo Lefebvre hand-pick the contestants they felt had the potential to win a battle of the taste buds – their challenge each week is to create the most flavoursome recipe they can, with help from their famous mentors. This week, Richard Corrigan also joins in the fun by setting the first task – a prawn cocktail.

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans ITV, 9pm

Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie. So it's only fitting that he'd be asked to present this three-part series in which he meets animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these animals – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed. First, Paul visits SANCCOB, a sanctuary which looks after seabirds.



Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey, Friday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Restoration Man Channel 4, 8pm

One thing's for certain; George Clarke would never complain of being bored in his job. The architect gets to meet people from all walks of life for this telly gem – which would be interesting enough – and takes a nose into their renovation plans, often rolling back his sleeves and getting in on the action himself. This week, he meets fellow architect Neil Worrell and his partner Jackie Robinson, who are making a rather big commitment. Never having lived together before, they're now going to cement their relationship by purchasing an unused church in the picturesque fishing town of Brixham in Devon.

Finding Mum and Dad Channel 4, 10pm

When many people think about adoption, they probably imagine taking home a new baby, who will never have known any other parents. But the reality is that many of the children in most need of a family are older, and that can bring with it a new set of challenges. In this fascinating documentary, we're introduced to Connor and Daniel, who as sibling boys aged six and four are already classed

as 'hard to place.' In the past, that may have suggested they were destined to spend their lives in the system, but the authorities are exploring new ways to find children the stable homes they need. Filmed over the course of 12 months, this programme goes behind the scenes of an innovative new scheme designed to find potential mums and dads.

THURSDAY Hidden Kingdoms BBC1, 8pm

With the new year comes a wonderful new documentary from the BBC. The list of natural history programmes over the past few years is staggering, especially considering the quality of them. Three-part series Hidden Kingdoms is the latest and reveals the survival techniques employed by some of the animal kingdom's smallest creatures. This week, we observe the grasshopper mouse of North America's Sonoran desert. Despite its stature, it is capable of disarming scorpions twice its size, and its power and athleticism allow it to avoid rattlesnakes and tarantulas.

FRIDAY Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey ITV, 9pm

The actor most associated with his comic role as Tony in Men Behaving Badly talks openly for the first time about his infamous affair with Amanda Holden. He reflects on being taken into care when he was just 10 years old and reveals how Mel Gibson was happy for him to pretend to be his brother when they became drinking pals.

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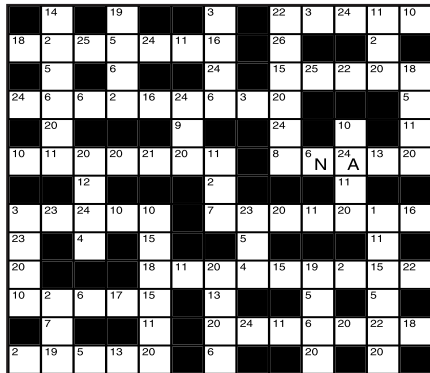
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Brain Gym

No.255

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

K	L	D	R	B	A	C	P	E	G	V	H	W
F	S	Z	J	U	Y	X	M	N	O	Q	I	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

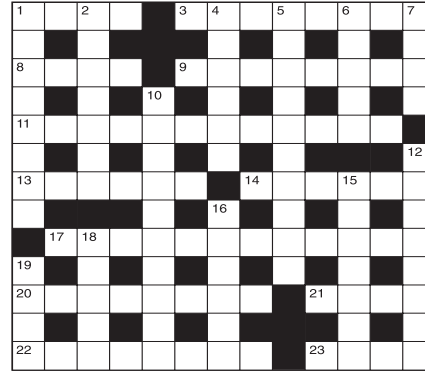
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Loud part of the play - and that's the truth (4)
3. Aromatic plant to sell in real variety (8)
8. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation - to control the rate of clothing? (12)
13. Three will show approval (6)
14. Provide with physical cover (6)
- 17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8,4,8)
20. Newspapers, maybe, for travelling attendants (8)
21. Box for a piece of the rigging (4)
22. Not allowing the current deposit to mount up (8)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit - jumpers would be out of place (4-4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This study could provide a gloomy tone (10)
6. Crude monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much betting? (10)
12. Edward takes in anaesthetic, strictly controlled in movement (8)
15. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer's a lemon! (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)



Quick Clues:

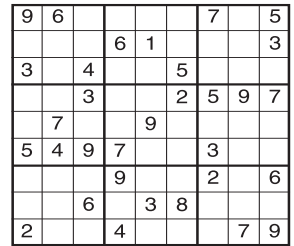
Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bias (8)
8. Eminence (4)
9. Flag (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
13. Awning (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Begin (8)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (8)
15. Advance (7)
16. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8
8	5	7	1	4	2	9	3	6
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	6	9
9	1	8	2	6	7	3	4	5
6	3	2	4	9	5	1	8	7
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
2	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shipwrights; 9 Netball; 10 Farce; 11 Onset; 12 Siskins; 13 Mobbed; 15 Albino; 18 Trouble; 20 Oiler; 22 Okapi; 23 Stood up; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Hates; 3 Piastre; 4 Relish; 5 Gifts; 6 Termini; 7 Information; 8 Seismograph; 14 Brocade; 16 Look-out; 17 Teaser; 19 Bride; 21 Laden. QUICK - Across: 1 Thoughtless; 9 Dungeon; 10 Merge; 11 Lodge; 12 Settled; 13 Stress; 15 Reason; 18 Enclose; 20 Enter; 22 Crime; 23 Unusual; 24 Investments. Down: 2 Honed; 3 Useless; 4 Honest; 5 Limit; 6 Strolls; 7 Adolescence; 8 Leading role; 14 Ruction; 16 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.



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- . GCH & DG
- . Garage & Garden
- . EPC Current Rating C

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- . Kitchen/ Diner
- . Bathroom & Garden
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MARY STREET, WALSALL

- . Terraced House
- . Two Bedrooms
- . Lounge, Kitchen
- . Dining Room
- . Bathroom
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Guide Price £249,500

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Woodruff Way Tamebridge



£219,995

●●MUST BE VIEWED●● A superb four bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Improved and upgraded the property further comprises, reception hall, dining room, lounge, refitted kitchen, four bedrooms, ensuite shower room, refitted family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking for several vehicles to the front. Energy rating D.

Harness Close Walsall



£159,995

"MUST BE VIEWED" Extended three bedroom link detached superb family home. With gas central heating, majority double glazing includes, entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, dining room, sitting room, guest W.C. To the first floor the landing, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front lawn garden and driveway providing off road parking for several vehicles, garage with utility room to rear. To the rear of the property there is a landscaped, enclosed lawn garden with paved patio area and further secure off road parking behind double gates. Energy rating D.

Severn Road



£85,000

●●NO UPWARD CHAIN, MUST BE SOLD●● A three bedroom end of terrace property briefly comprising, lounge, kitchen/diner, guest W.C., three bedrooms, family bathroom, block paved driveway providing off road parking, rear garden the property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Energy rating C

Booths Farm Road Great Barr



£175,000

An excellent opportunity to acquire a development site with lapsed outline planning permission for 2, two bedroom apartments and 2, one bedroom apartments (Drawings can be amended to suit developer subject to planning permission), plus parking for five cars and demolition of house which was granted by Birmingham City Council in 2004. Excellent opportunity for developer.

Lord Street



£99,995

Refurbished, improved and upgraded three bedroom middle terrace family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, three bedrooms and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Norfolk Grove Great Wyrley



£99,995

A well presented two bedroom end of terrace property having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely family home briefly comprises, porch, fitted kitchen, lounge, conservatory, two double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and communal parking. Energy rating D.

Valley Road Bloxwich



£99,995

Refurbished, improved and upgraded is this three bedroom semi-detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises of porch, spacious lounge, refitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking. The property also benefits from off road parking, front & rear gardens and being close to local amenities. Energy rating E.

Church Hill



£154,995

A good size detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, intruder alarm and no upward chain. Located on a good size corner plot the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom with additional shower cubicle, gardens to front, side and rear with workshop, enclosed secure off road parking and garage at the rear. The property also has lapsed planning permission for a two story side extension. Energy rating F.

Glastonbury Crescent



£94,995

●●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A well presented three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely family home further comprises reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with side entry, 3 good size bedrooms, wet room with shower, front & rear gardens and communal off road parking. Awaiting EPC.

Planetree Road Walsall



£109,950

A two bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, side entry with guest W.C., two double bedrooms, family bathroom with Jacuzzi and additional shower cubicle, front and rear gardens and enclosed off road parking. Energy rating E.

Spring Road Sheffield



£119,995

An improved and upgraded semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear lobby, family bathroom with separate W.C., three bedrooms, attic room, communal parking nearby and rear garden with outbuilding (previously gym & office). Energy rating E.

Charles Street Walsall



£66,000

Brand new Award Winning Development of superb shared ownership modern apartments having the benefit of double glazing and central heating. These lovely properties further comprise reception hall, modern open plan lounge/kitchen with balcony, double bedroom, family bathroom with shower and parking space. ●●PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS●●THESE PROPERTIES ARE ONLY PURCHASED ON HELP TO BUY SCHEME/ SHARED OWNERSHIP OR OUTRIGHT BUY●●

Severn Road Walsall



£89,950

NO UPWARD CHAIN/OPEN TOO OFFERS AND MUST BE SOLD! Three bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, guest W.C., conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, block paved driveway providing off road parking and rear garden. Energy rating C.

Beechwood Close Bloxwich



£309,995

A superb unique four bedroom detached family home where an internal viewing is a must to fully appreciate the quality of the property on offer. This lovely property benefits from UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and fitted intruder alarm. Located in a private cul de sac set back from the main road the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, spacious lounge/diner, fitted kitchen with utility area, conservatory, four bedrooms, ensuite shower room, family bathroom with jacuzzi bath, landscaped rear garden with ample block paved off road parking for several vehicles and detached double garage with workshop. Energy rating D.

Oak Road Sheffield



£115,950

A much improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached family home. Ideal for the first time buyer or investor whilst benefitting from majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented property further comprises, reception hall, spacious through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, side covered entrance, utility room, two double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden with patio, off road parking and garden to front. Energy rating E.

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**Pelsall
WINDRUSH CLOSE**

- 3 BED END TOWN HOUSE
- D.Glazing•Gas Heating
- Kitchen•Lounge/Diner
- Bathroom•Large Garden
- Front Garden & Parking

£675 PCM



AMBERWOOD CLOSE

- Three Bed Semi
- D.Glazing and Gas Heating
- Lounge•Kitchen
- Bathroom•Gardens•Utility
- Parking•sorry No DHSS

£595 PCM



**Willenhall
POOLES LANE**

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- D.Glazing•C.Heating
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking.

£550 PCM



**Bloxwich
HOLLEMEADOW AVENUE**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- D.Glazing•DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
RYLE STREET**

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Gardens•Off Road Parking
- D.Glazing•Gas Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS or No Pets

£495 PCM



**Rushall
ORCHARD CLOSE**

- TWO BEDROOM SEMI
- Kitchen•Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road parking

£495 PCM



**Walsall
BLACKTHORNE ROAD**

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Part Gas Heated•D.Glazing
- Off Road Parking•Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



**Walsall
SNEYD LANE**

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Lounge•Dining Room
- Bathroom•Sorry No DHSS
- D.Glazing
- Central Heating

£495 PCM



**Willenhall
KINGFISHER COURT**

- Two Bed Apartment
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- D.Glazing•Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



**Walsall
GRAND JUNCTION WAY**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Gardens•Off Road Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or

£450 PCM



**Walsall
LAVENDER GROVE**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Dining Room
- Central Heating•D.Glazing
- Gardens•Off Road Parking

£450 PCM



**Walsall
SALDAVIAN COURT**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Garage•Off Road Parking
- Secure Intercom Access
- Sorry No Dhss

£450 PCM



**Walsall
BLOXWICH ROAD**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge•Kitchen•Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
MARTON COURT**

- One Bed Apartments
- Fitted kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Electric Heating

£400 PCM



**Bloxwich
LIVINGSTONE ROAD**

- Two Bed Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen•Bathroom
- Central Heating
- D.Glazing•Off Road Parking

£395 PCM



**Walsall
LITTLE STATION STREET**

- 1 bed first floor apartment
- Lounge•kitchen•Bathroom
- Fridge, cooker and w.machine
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or

£375 PCM



**Walsall
TUDOR HOUSE**

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge•Bathroom•kitchen
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£350 PCM



**Willenhall
MARKET PLACE**

- One Bed Flat
- Lounge•Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom•Gas Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM

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**Bloxwich
NURSERY ROAD**

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Lounge•Kitchen
- Family Bathroom.
- Front Driveway
- Double Glazing

£525



**Bloxwich
LANCASTER PLACE**

- Two Bedroom Semi
- Lounge•Diner•Kitchen
- Bathroom•D.Glazed
- Gas Heating
- Gardens•DHSS Accepted

£525 PCM



**Walsall
STAFFORD STREET**

- Three Bed Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge•Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens

£495 PCM



**Walsall
BOTANY ROAD**

- Three Bed Terrace
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Gardens•Front Driveway
- Gas Heating & D.Glazing
- DHSS Accepted•Sorry No Pets

£475 PCM



**Walsall
HARNES CLOSE**

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- D.Glazing•Gas Heating

£475 PCM



**Bloxwich
BAGNALL STREET**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gardens

£475 PCM



**Bloxwich
MAY STREET**

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen•Bathroom
- Gas Heating
- Rear Garden

£465 PCM



**Bloxwich
SIGNAL GROVE**

- Two Bedroom End Town House
- Part Furnished•Lounge
- Family Kitchen•Bathroom
- D.Glazing•Electric Heating
- Front Garden•Off Road Parking

£450 PCM



**Walsall
LEWIS STREET**

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom•Double Glazing
- Central Heating•Rear Garden

£450 PCM



**Walsall
CORNWALL PLACE**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- D.Glazing•Gas Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£450 PCM



**Bloxwich
MARTON COURT**

- Two Bed Apartments
- Lounge•Fitted kitchen•Bathroom
- Double Glazing•Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted•Off Road

£430 PCM



**Walker Road
GUILD COURT**

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom•Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing•Allocated Parking

£425 PCM



**Walsall
LITTLE STATION STREET**

- 1 bed first floor apartment
- Lounge•kitchen•Bathroom
- Fridge, cooker and w.machine
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET**

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



**Bloxwich
BROAD LANE**

- One Bed Maisonette
- Kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom
- Shared Rear Garden•D. Glazing
- DHSS Accepted•Sorry No Pets

£325 PCM



**Bloxwich
BARRACKS LANE**

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Double Glazing•Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

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BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH**

- Exceptional Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Through Lounge/Dining Room ● Breakfast Kitchen & Utility/wc
- Three Superb Double Bedrooms ● Large Driveway & Front Gardens
- Refitted Luxury Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Garage & Carport ● Rear Gardens ● No Chain ● Energy Rating 'D'

£169,995**PROPERTY OF THE WEEK****WILLENHALL
FIELD STREET**

- Renovated Period Semi Detached In Convenient Central Location
- Lounge & Dining Room ● Impressive Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Luxury Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing ● Energy rating E
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● No Upward Chain

£95,000**FEATURED PROPERTY****WILLENHALL
CLARKES LANE**

- Well Appointed Spacious First Floor Flat ● Two Double Bedrooms
- Hall with Utility ● Lounge ● Refitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Communal Gardens
- Viewing Recommended ● Energy Rating 'C'

£70,000

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**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Superior Detached Family Residence ● No Chain
- Large Lounge ● Dining Room ● Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms ● 2 En-Suites ● Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating ● Energy Rating 'C'
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£249,950**SUMMER HAYES
FARBROOK WAY**

- Superb Extended Much Improved Detached Property ● No Upward Chain
- Hall ● Spacious Lounge ● Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Majority Double Glazing ● Energy Rating 'E'
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● Garage ● Utility with WC ● Driveway

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £169,000**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Superbly Appointed Modern Detached Property
- Spacious Lounge with Dining Area ● Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom ● En-Suite Shower Room ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Sitting Room/Dining Room
- Rear Gardens ● Driveway to the Fore ● Energy Rating 'C'

£169,000**WILLENHALL
STONEHOUSE AVENUE**

- Impressive Improved Modern Style Detached Property
- Popular Cal-De-Sac Location ● Energy Rating 'E'
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Garage ● Front & Rear gardens ● No Chain

£150,000**WILLENHALL
ENSBURY CLOSE (OFF STROUD AVENUE)**

- Well Presented Extended Modern Style Semi Detached
- Lounge & Spacious Dining Room ● Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating D

£147,500**PORTOBELLO
WAITE ROAD**

- Extended Improved Traditional Detached
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Breakfast Kitchen
- Gas C/H ● Double Glazing ● Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating 'E'

£146,000**WILLENHALL
LINCOLN AVENUE**

- Traditional Semi Detached Property ● Popular Location
- Lounge ● Conservatory ● Energy Rating E
- Open Plan Dining Room ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● En-Suite Shower Room ● Bathroom
- Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH

OFFERS OVER £125,000**WILLENHALL
GRANBOURNE ROAD**

- Modern Style Semi Detached Property ● Energy Rating D
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Enclosed Rear Gardens
- Block Paved Driveway ● Detached Garage

£124,950**WILLENHALL
MEMORIAL CLOSE**

- Modern Style Semi Detached ● Energy rating D
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System

£120,000**WILLENHALL
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD**

- Extended Traditional Semi Detached ● No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Gardens
- Garage ● Driveway ● ENERGY RATING F

£109,995**WILLENHALL
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Modern Coach House apartment
- Lounge, Dining Area ● Energy 'C' ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two excellent size bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Gym/office/converted garage ● Parking

£99,995 NO CHAIN**NEW INVENTION
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Well Presented Modern Ground Floor Apartment
- Hall ● Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Energy rating 'B'
- Garage ● Allocated Parking Space

£99,950**WILLENHALL
FIBBERSLEY BANK**

- Modern Semi Detached Property in Cal-de-sac Location
- Two Bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Majority Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Parking ● Energy Rating 'C'

£99,950 offers over**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Spacious Ground Floor Apartment
- Popular Development ● Large Lounge & Dining Area ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms with Fitted Wardrobes ● Bathroom
- Allocated Parking ● Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Energy Rating 'F'

£99,950 NO CHAIN**WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE**

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms ● First Floor Shower Room
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating 'D'

£82,000**WILLENHALL
GOUGH STREET**

- Mid Terrace Property ● No Chain
- Spacious Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Shower Room
- Double Glazing ● Energy rating 'F'
- Driveway ● Gardens

£77,000**BENTLEY
POPLAR AVENUE**

- Ground Floor Maisonette ● Spacious Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Large Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Energy Rating 'D' ● NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Off Road Parking ● Pleasant Rear Gardens

£70,000 offers over**WILLENHALL
ST ANNES ROAD**

- Mid Terrace Property ● Requires Renovation
- Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● BRIGHT RATING 'F'
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- No Chain ● Rear Gardens

£61,000**COPPICE FARM
COTSWOLD GROVE**

- Improved Extended Semi Detached Property ● No Chain
- Lounge & Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Breakfast Kitchen ● Utility
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-Suite
- Driveway ● Gardens ● Energy Rating D
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing

£159,950**COPPICE FARM
HILLBURY DRIVE**

- Extended Improved Modern Style Semi Detached
- Lounge & Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory ● Utility
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Energy rating D
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£156,950**WILLENHALL
STONEHOUSE AVENUE**

- Modern Style Detached ● Requires Modernisation
- Popular Cal-De-Sac Location ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms ● Shower Room ● Energy Rating D
- Garage & Drive ● Pleasant Rear Gardens

£137,950

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FEATURED PROPERTY



**WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE**

- Exceptional traditional detached on premier road
- Drawing room ● Superb conservatory ● Dining room
- Breakfast kitchen and utility ● Energy Rating D
- Three bedrooms and loft room ● Luxury bathroom & En-suite
- Garage and large driveway ● Extensive rear garden

£369,950

NEW INSTRUCTION



**COPPICKE FARM
SANDALWOOD CLOSE**

- Excellent extended modern link detached property
- Spacious lounge and dining room ● Refitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom
- Rear garden ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Garage and driveway ● No chain ● Energy tbc

£175,000

NEW INSTRUCTION



**WILLENHALL
LAKESIDE CLOSE**

- Impressive extended well presented modern link detached
- Spacious 18ft lounge ● Energy TBC
- Superb extended open plan dining room/ re-fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom ● Refitted en-suite
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- Garage and driveway ● Rear gardens

£155,000

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**WILLENHALL
ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE**

- Superb Link Detached Property ● Popular Cul De Sac Location
- Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Energy Rating TBC
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£162,000



**WILLENHALL
STROUD AVENUE**

- Superb completely renovated modern style semi detached
- Spacious lounge ● Impressive refitted kitchen ● Energy TBC
- Three excellent bedrooms ● Luxury refitted bathroom
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating system
- Garage and driveway ● Rear garden ● No chain

£142,500



**COUNTY BRIDGE
SOMERSET ROAD**

- Impressive extended semi detached property in popular location
- Lounge and sitting room ● Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom
- Pleasant rear garden ● Block paved driveway
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating

£132,500



**WILLENHALL
TRENTHAM AVENUE**

- Much improved semi detached property
- 19ft through lounge/dining room ● Refitted kitchen & utility
- Two double bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating ● Double glazing ● Energy tbc
- Rear gardens ● Garage and driveway ● No chain

£117,000



**BEACON ESTATE
MOORE ROAD**

- Traditional style semi detached property in popular estate
- Lounge and dining room ● Kitchen and lobby with wc
- Two double bedrooms ● Shower room
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Rear gardens ● No chain ● Energy tbc

£95,000



**WILLENHALL
CLEVELAND CLOSE**

- Semi detached property
- Lounge ● Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double glazing ● Ground floor wc
- Rear gardens ● No chain ● Energy rating TBC

£79,950



**WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICKE GARDENS**

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms ● Gas C/Heating
- UPVC D/Clazing ● Spacious Lounge
- Rear & Side Gardens ● EPC Rating 'E'
- Conservatory & Laundry Room ● Garage & Parking

£140,000



**WILLENHALL
BECCLES DRIVE**

- Improved Modern Style Semi Detached ● Very Popular Location
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace ● Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-suite Shower Room
- Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating C
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System

OFFERS OVER £135,000



**COPPICKE FARM
SANDALWOOD CLOSE**

- Improved Semi Detached ● Energy Rating 'D'
- Lounge ● Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Drive ● Pleasant Rear Gardens

£129,500



**WILLENHALL
WALSALL ROAD**

- Modern Three Storey End Town House with No Upward Chain
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Energy Rating 'C'
- Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Garage ● Rear Gardens

offers over £113,000



**SHORT HEATH
WALKERS FOLD**

- Modern Mid Terrace in Popular Location
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Driveway ● Rear Gardens ● Energy rating C

£109,950



**DARLSTON
ST GEORGE'S CLOSE**

- Well Presented & Improved Mid Town House
- Hall with WC ● Large Lounge ● Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Part Gas Central Heating
- Car Port ● Rear Gardens ● Energy rating 'D'

£100,000



**WILLENHALL
THE CRESCENT**

- Period Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens ● ENERGY RATING D

£92,000



**WILLENHALL
ALBION ROAD**

- Spacious Period Mid Terrace Property ● Convenient Location
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Large Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Large Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens ● Energy Rating 'D'

£89,950



**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Superbly appointed modern back to back house
- Open plan lounge and impressive refitted kitchen ● Double bedroom
- Refitted bathroom ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Driveway
- Delightful rear garden with log cabin ● No chain ● Energy Rating 'C'

£89,950



**WILLENHALL
HALEY STREET (OFF MILL LANE)**

- Mid Terrace Property ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● En-suite WC
- Double Glazing ● Part Gas Central Heating
- Energy Rating TBC ● Driveway ● Rear Garden

£75,000



**BENTLEY
STAR CLOSE**

- Mid Terrace Property ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Part Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens ● Energy rating TBC

£72,500



**WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPICKE GARDENS**

- First Floor maisonette in popular location ● Lounge ● Kitchen
- Double bedroom with built-in wardrobe ● Bathroom with white suite
- Double glazing ● Garage ● No chain
- Energy Rating 'F'

£55,000



**WEDNESFIELD
BIRCHFIELDS ROAD**

- Impressive 1920's Semi Detached on Premier Road
- Spacious Lounge ● Dining Room ● Superb Conservatory
- Extended Fitted Kitchen ● Double Glazing ● Energy Rating E
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating
- Driveway ● Delightful Well Established Gardens

£189,950



**BENTLEY
SILVERSTONE CLOSE**

- Detached Property in Cul De Sac Location ● No Upward Chain
- Four Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Energy Rating 'D'
- Three Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway ● Rear Garden

£154,950



**NEW INVENTION
GLAMIS ROAD**

- Modern Style Link Detached on Popular Road ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen ● Energy Rating 'E'
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Block Paved Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens

£149,950

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FOR SALE WOOD LANE, SHORT HEATH Four Bedroom Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Further Separate Lounge/Diner, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C., Four Double Bedrooms With Built-In Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Generous Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £249,995	FOR SALE WOOD LANE CL, SHORT HEATH Superb Three Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden, Garage & Driveway. £240,000	FOR SALE ESSINGTON RD, ESSINGTON Extended Four Bedroom Three Storey End Terraced Property Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Master With Fitted Wardrobes & Shower, Family Bathroom, Study, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW. £189,995	FOR SALE BEWLEY ROAD, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Feature Conservatory, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links. £149,995
FOR SALE PATTENHAM CLOSE, WILLENHALL Modern Three Storey Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms And Bathroom To First Floor, Master Bedroom With En-Suite To Second Floor, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front And Rear Gardens. £146,995	FOR SALE GLASTONBURY CRES, BLOXWICH Fully Refurbished Four Bedroom Detached Property Comprising Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Laundry Room, Ground Floor Bedroom With En-Suite, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front, Side And Rear Gardens. Must View. £144,995	FOR SALE CHESTER CLOSE, WILLENHALL Extended Stylish Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Of Porch, Lounge, Spacious Modern Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden. Close To Local Schools, Transport Links And Amenities. Must View. £136,995	FOR SALE CEDAR ROAD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, Utility Area, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Brick Outbuilding. Viewings Recommended! No Chain! £98,995
FOR SALE GRENVILLE CLOSE, BENTLEY Well Presented One Bed First Floor Flat Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor Living Accommodation, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, D/Glazing, Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL And Transport Links. Great BTL! £64,995	FOR SALE LINDEN CLOSE, BENTLEY Two Bed Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Secure Fenced Communal Area To The Rear, Great FTB Or BTL Investment. £69,995	FOR SALE GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links. Great Investment Property. £78,995	FOR SALE KEYSMITH CL, WILLENHALL Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment Comprising Of Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, And Allocated Parking, Being Close To Good Schools, Transport Links And Amenities. £79,995
FOR SALE REGENT ST, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bed End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Cul-De-Sac Location. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. £82,000	FOR SALE HAWKSWELL DRIVE, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented One Bedroom Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Lounge With Open Plan Stairs, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Garden. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let Investment! £83,500	FOR SALE SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking. £89,995	FOR SALE REGENT STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. This Property Is Presented In Show Home Condition, Must Be Viewed To Fully Appreciate. £89,995
FOR SALE DIBBLE CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C., C/Heating, D/Glazing, Parking To The Rear. Ideal FTB Or Buy To Let. £90,000 OIEO	FOR SALE HILL ROAD, PORTOBELLO Well Presented Three Bedroom Town House Situated On A Corner Plot Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links. £104,995	FOR SALE SQUIRES GATE RD, WILLENHALL Two Bed End Town House Having Modern Fitted Kitchen, Open Plan Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing & Allocated Parking. Ideal FTB. £109,995	FOR SALE STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge With Open Plan Stairs, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Parking For Two Vehicles. Ideal FTB Or BTL. £114,995
FOR SALE BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL Modern Refurbished Three Bed Three Storey Semi Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms On First Floor With A Further Bedroom To The Second Floor, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Landscaped Garden. Offers over £119,950	FOR SALE SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Mid Town House Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. £122,500	FOR SALE SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION Modern Three Bed Town House On The Much Sought After Squires Grove Development In New Invention Having Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. OIEO £125,000	FOR SALE JOHNSON RD, DARLASTON Extended Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Extended Lounge, Three Generous Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Front And Rear Gardens With Off Road Parking. £129,999
FOR SALE RIDING WAY, SHORT HEATH Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Carport, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £132,995	FOR SALE MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Close To Good Local Amenities And Transport Links. Must View! £132,995	FOR SALE WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Room, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. Close To Schools, Amenities And Good Transport Links. Viewing Highly Recommended. £139,995	FOR SALE ENSBURRY CLOSE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Link Detached Property Located In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Rear Garden, Enclosed Garden, Driveway. £142,995
FOR SALE UPLANDS AVENUE, WILLENHALL Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Basement/Hobby Room, Cellar, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Must View. £144,995	FOR SALE LITTLE ISLAND DR, WILLENHALL Three Storey Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Sitting Room, Bedroom Three, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage. £153,995	FOR SALE ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac Location. £169,995	TO LET DILLOWAYS IN, W'HALL Well Presented First Floor Flat Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Off Road Parking And Rear Garden. Viewing Recommended! £400 PCM
TO LET KINGFISHER COURT, WILLENHALL Modern Two Bed Apartment, Furnished, Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Two Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom With Shower, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Private Gated Entrance With Allocated Parking. Must View! £500 PCM	TO LET BAYNTON ROAD, WILLENHALL Refurbished Three Bedroom Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, An Integral Garage. Conveniently Located For Good Local Schools, Amenities And Good Transport Links. Must View! £550 PCM	TO LET HILBURY DRIVE, COPPICE FARM Modern Two Bed Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Carport, Off Road Parking, Side And Rear Gardens. Must View! £525 PCM	TO LET MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, Playroom Currently Being Used As A Fourth Bedroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway, Enclosed Rear Garden. £525 PCM
TO LET BRAEMAR CLOSE, WILLENHALL Recently Improved Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom With Shower, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens And Off Road Parking. £595 PCM	TO LET DILLOWAYS IN, PORTOBELLO Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewings Are Very Highly Recommended. £625 PCM	TO LET WILLENHALL RD, W'TON Well Presented, Modern, Three Storey Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C., Family Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Three Double Bedrooms, Two With En-Suite, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. £625 PCM	TO LET PATTENHAM CLOSE, WILLENHALL Modern Three Storey Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Master With En-Suite, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Located Close To Local Amenities, Schools And Transport Links. Must View! £650 PCM

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NEW £695 pcm

Glen Close

- A re-furnished 3 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Brand new upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and integral double garage

NEW £650 pcm

Launceston Close

- A splendid 3bed detached property
- A spacious lounge with feature fire place
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Integral garage and a fully enclosed rear garden

NEW £595 pcm

Poppy Drive

- A modern 3 bed mid terrace
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and integral garage

NEW £575 pcm

Follyhouse Lane

- A fully re-furnished 3 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- New fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Rear garden and Driveway

NEW £550 pcm

Flinkford close

- A 3 bed end terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Pleasant fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and integral garage

NEW £495 pcm

Manor Road

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and double Glazing
- DSS accepted

NEW £495 pcm

Delamere Drive

- A modern 2 bed mid terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central heating and Double Glazing
- Parking and rear garden

NEW £495 pcm

Castle Street

- A well presented 3 bed terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden DSS accepted

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£550 pcm

Broadstone Avenue

- A fully re-furnished 2 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Ground floor

525 pcm

Flaxhall Street

- An extended 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner
- Downstairs bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and conservatory

515 pcm

Smiths Flour Mill

- A modern 2 bed ground floor apartment
- Open planned lounge/kitchen area
- Stylish kitchen with integral appliances
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Secure allocated parking space

£500 pcm

Sandwell Street

- A 3 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 good size reception room
- Large kitchen/diner with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with jacuzzi bath
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Town centre location

£500 pcm

Gower Street

- A superb 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

£500 pcm

Temple Square

- A traditional 3 bed semi detached
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom and WC
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£495pcm

Brewer Street

- A spectacular 3 bed detached property
- A good size reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant upstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Rear garden and driveway

£480 pcm

Caldmore Green

- A 3 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Bathroom with shower and separate WC
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£475 pcm

Tame Street East

- A well presented 2 bed semi detached
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway EPC rating D

£450 pcm

Dora Street

- A traditional 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

450 pcm

Springhill Court

- A well presented 2 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Stylish bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Parking, DSS accepted

£435 pcm

West Bromwich Road

- A 2 bed end terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- DSS accepted

425 pcm

Dora street

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property
- 1 spacious through lounge
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden, DSS accepted

£400 pcm

St Georges Court, Walsall

- A Superb 1 bed 2nd floor apartment
- Open planned lounge/kitchen area
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom
- Parking space and views of the town
- DSS accepted EPC rating C

£400 pcm

Wolverhampton Street

- A splendid 1 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£395 pcm

Tudor House

- A 1 Bed first floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Town centre location
- Dss accepted EPC rating C

380 pcm

Treetops Drive

- A fully re-furnished 1 bed maisonette
- Open planned lounge and kitchen area
- Brand new kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with walk in shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Garage

£350 pcm

Parker Street

- A re-furnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Good size family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating G

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 AT available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 AT). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. †Manual transmission only.



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DS12FWO	Kia Picanto 2 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Red 4,000 miles.....	£7695	AF10LLO	Toyota Urban Cruiser D-4D 1.4 Diesel 5 Door Hatchback Blue 32,000 miles.....	£9995
BN63KCU	Suzuki Splash Sz2 1.0 P5 Door Hatchback Silver-Black Interior, 3,000 miles.....	£7495	BF58TMV	Fiat 500 Lounge 1.2 3 Door Hatchback Grey, 33,000 miles.....	£6595
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Motoring

Compiled by
Motoring Editor Sharon Walters



The Skoda Octavia vRS has been voted 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' by lifestyle magazine FHM

Octavia vRS scoops award

THE Skoda Octavia vRS has been awarded the 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' gong by a leading men's lifestyle magazine.

Judges on FHM's panel were impressed by the hot Octavia's interior

space, family-friendly practicality, impressive performance and striking style. Its price also struck a chord, with an entry figure of £22,990 on the road, putting it well below less spacious alternatives.

Chris Horrell, product marketing manager for Skoda UK said: "We are

thrilled that the Octavia vRS hatch has been honoured in the FHM Car Awards.

"The sporty model offers the perfect solution for style-conscious drivers who require superior power delivery as well as all-round everyday practicality."



New Generation i10

If it had ears, they would be burning

High praise indeed from the big names in the motoring press. And they're not the only ones being complimentary about the New Generation i10. Available from 30th January 2014, it won't be long before you can have your say.

To find out more about the city car everyone's talking about, visit www.brindleyhyundai.co.uk



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) - 65.7 (4.3), CO₂ Emissions 142 - 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer.

Motoring

EcoSport is another first rate car from Ford stable

IF you've been looking for a mini SUV recently you may have noticed the absence of Ford representation in what's become a rapidly growing market sector.

The Blue Oval has finally fixed this omission with the EcoSport, a car boasting familiar Ford driving and design characteristics plus a trio of engines promising to be kind on your wallet.

As befits a market sector focused more on urban agility than the ability to climb every mountain, the EcoSport is front-wheel drive only.

Up front you've the choice of Ford's award-winning three-cylinder, 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol motor, a conventional 1.5-litre petrol and frugal 1.5-litre, four-pot diesel unit.

Riding more than a little higher than a Fiesta, the EcoSport offers drivers a commanding view of the road. Despite its 'compact' tag, Ford's mini SUV's cabin is surprisingly spacious, and there's enough room for four adults, or more importantly a growing family.

Bash-proof plastics abound in the cabin, which, while coming close to that of a Fiesta or Focus, are the obvious sign of the EcoSport's low-cost roots.

Still, what you can see and touch is of a good standard, and the controls and displays will be familiar to existing Ford owners.

Also pleasing is Ford's generosity when it comes to standard equipment.

Titanium

Focusing initially on high-grade Titanium spec, the EcoSport lacks very little in real terms thanks to the inclusion of keyless ignition, alloy wheels, air-con, decent audio and plush upholstery.

Open your wallet a little wider and you can add leather trim, rain sensing wipers, cruise control and Ford's feature rich multimedia system complete with mobile phone connectivity.

Showroom appeal is all very well, fortunately the EcoSport also makes a convincing case on the road.

While not built for outright speed the car boasts a well sorted ride and weighty steering, which should instil plenty of confidence when on the move.

Much work has been done by Ford's engineers to tailor the EcoSport to the demands of European roads and its drivers.

The bottom line is that a mini SUV drives much like any current small Ford, which is a considerable achievement and should be enough to give its rivals something to think about.

It's fair to say that, in 1.0-litre EcoBoost trim, the car is best suited to relaxed urban motoring. Brisk performance is easily achievable but push hard and you'll soon be jealous of the extra torque and smoothness of the diesel motor.

The EcoBoost petrol-powered car might be quicker in a straight line but the diesel's welcome extra slug of torque might be a deal-breaker for some.

The five-speed manual gearshift is slick in both cars, while the added flexibility of the diesel allows you to stretch the EcoSport's legs on long journeys.

Motorway cruising is a doddle plus you'll need fewer downchanges when attacking hilly terrain.

Other cars might have stolen a march in this market sector but Ford's EcoSport can stand tall, confident it has the requisite talents to meet many of its rivals head on.

It might not have been first to market but it's yet another first-rate motor from Ford.



Ford's EcoSport may have a 'compact' tag but it is surprisingly spacious



There are bash-proof plastics in the cabin but there's a touch of good standard

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Models Shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. Terms and Conditions: Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO₂ 159 g/km and for the Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban 30.7, Extra-Urban 49.5, Combined 40.3, CO₂ 164 g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LS Hatchback and a Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LS. Vehicles shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Cruze and Model Year 14 Orlando. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Prices correct at time of print. Valid for retail registrations only. At participating Dealers only. Offer ends 31st March 2014.

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Gabby is one-shot hero for the Villa

Sunderland 0 Villa 1
GABBY AGBONLAHOR – Villa's most experienced Premier League player – struck the winner, just as he did on this ground last season.

A gritty, determined and deserved victory owed much to a comedy of errors, a clinical finish and concentration.

Sunderland, who remain bottom of the Premier League, shot themselves in the foot by gifting Villa a winner.

Lee Cattermole's shocking lack of control to hand Agbonlahor Villa's goal ended the claret and blues' winless streak at the sixth attempt.

The Black Cats' attempts to salvage the situation saw bags of effort, but little quality – just one of their 17 shots found the target.

Plenty of possession pinned Villa back at times, Emanuele Giaccherini was denied by the linesman's flag and Steven Fletcher toiled away, but it wasn't enough.

It was just the striker's third goal of the season, but second in two games, and after 12 strikes last term it must prove the catalyst for more. Agbonlahor, along with Andi Weimann, has yet to hit top form.

Albion and Star end up on all fours

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League Premier

Erdington Star 4 Burntwood Albion 4

League One
B-hills Comm 4 Stonnall FC 0

League Three
Alma FC 0 Boatmans Rest 2; Hussey Arms 2 Walsall Phoenix 5

League Four
Cellar Door 1 Oak Park Rangers 2

Jack Donnelly Cup – Round Three
A C Lions 1 Queens FC 0

Danny Donovan Cup – Round One

Boney Hay 1 Burntwood Star 0; Cannock Wood 9 Longhorn FC 1

Glen Skett Cup – Round One

Duke of Wellington 4 Longdon Chet 8; Trident FC 2 AFC Kriss 1

H.Boston Cup – Round One

Paradise FC 2 Ros Park 1; Sheffield FC 3 Dog FC 0

Rikki Harrison Trophies – Round One

Doshill Rangers 0 Turnpike FC 3; Wyche Elm FC 4 Bowman FC 2

Lichfield Charity Cup – Round two

Burntwood Dragons 1 The Drill 4

Lichfield Charity Cup – Round Three

Green Rock Tavern 1 Pelsall Villa FC 5; Pelsall Villa Colts 3 Stafford Celtic 2; Ridware Oak 1 Prince of Wales 2.

Butler sends Rovers alert

WALSALL skipper Andy Butler has warned his teammates not to take Tranmere lightly on Saturday.

Ronnie Moore's side sit outside the League One drop zone on goal difference alone and were brushed aside 3-1 at the Banks' on the opening day of the season.

"Tranmere have had some good results, particularly at home and you can't write them off," he said.

Taylor Boyce shows Wood has six appeal

Walsall Wood 6 Heather St Johns 1

A SUPERLATIVE Wood performance, their biggest win of the season, has moved them up to 11th in the table, with games in hand.

The first half was a credit to the Midland Alliance with scintillating football from two young sides.

Experienced keeper Gary Hateley had kept the Saints in the game with some class saves but even he had no answer to the goal of this or any season, when, in the 26th minute, Lewis Taylor Boyce scythed through five tackles before slotting the ball home.

It took Wood just 57 seconds of the second half to make it two before they just ripped the visitors apart with a five-star, attacking display.

Joey Butlin won the ball in the centre and found Taylor Boyce wide right, he accelerated between two defenders, seemed to waltz through another three tackles before calmly slotting the ball home.

Within a minute of the start of the second half Wood doubled their lead, Taylor Boyce again racing down the right, crossing low into the box and this time Butlin

Football

tucked the ball home. On 53 minutes Wallen fed Withers wide left, he made the byeline and his low driven cross was taken at his near post by keeper Raj Gill.

Two minutes later Wood sewed up the three points, Hancox won the ball in the centre and fed Danger man Taylor Boyce, his clever ball inside was collected in his stride by Harris who took the ball round Hateley and scored.

Substitute Jacob Wright made an incisive run into the left of the Wood box on 60 minutes, his low

drive deflected for a corner that was eventually cleared.

Back came Wood, Butlin racing into the right of the box, Hateley denying him with another great save. The keeper was powerless however three minutes later, Harris held the ball up in the centre before releasing Gonzales wide right, his low far post cross rocketed home by Black's diving header.

A minute later Hancox ran into the left of the box, was tripped but was allowed advantage by the Referee, he reached the byline crossed low into the box and Leon

Taylor slotted home number five.

To their credit Saints didn't buckle, two minutes later substitute Conor Wright came in from wide left, his rising drive well taken by Gill.

On 79 minutes Wright's shot was charged down, the ball flew out to Hayden Johns 25 yards out and his first time drive flew through a packed area and into the net – to a stunned silence.

Wood, not to be outdone, came racing back through the irrepressible Taylor Boyce wide on the right on 83 minutes, his low cross driven low into the net by Black.

Hereford in bullish mood for league win

Walsall 16 Hereford 35

WALSALL were looking to equal a 25-year club record of 10 consecutive league wins and continue their push for the play-off position in Midlands One West.

But it was Hereford that secured the victory and leap-frogged Walsall in the league.

The visitors established a 15-9 interval lead after good handling resulted in tries for Day and Thomas.

Dean Powell converted one and added a penalty.

The hosts had several periods of sustained pressure during the first half and should have scored more than the three Roger Weston penalties.

The first part of the second half however, saw Hereford take a firm grip of the game with two more tries and a penalty.

The hosts scored, what proved to be, their only try after Simpson, Halbert and Hughes had made good ground before scrum half Pittaway wriggled over.

Another excellent touchline conversion by Weston showed why he is the league's leading kicker.

Another remarkable Walsall comeback then seemed a possibility, but good Hereford tackling kept their opponents at bay.

Signs of a change for Blox men

Sutton 4 Bloxwich Mens First XI 7

AFTER a torrid first half to the season, Bloxwich hockey club hope their fortunes will change drastically in the second half of a tough season.

Despite playing well in the majority of their matches, the results have not gone their way which leaves them at the bottom of their league.

The first of Bloxwich's warm-up matches was away to Sutton and a comprehensive victory will boost confidence and moral in an excellent team display.

After a couple of mistakes at the back, Bloxwich found themselves 3-2 down at half time with two goals coming from Dan Mazurek for Bloxwich.

Bloxwich put their foot on the gas in the second half and cruised comfortably to a solid win against a good Sutton team.

Two more excellent team goals from Adam Baldwin, another for Dan Mazurek, and two more from Gary Williams and Matt Baldwin sealed the great result.

Sporting win seesaw game

Sporting Khalsa 3 Cradley Town 2

KHALSA earned a victory over Cradley town in a seesaw last game of 2013.

Sporting took the lead in the 10th minute the ball was tapped into the net by Hayden Williams.

Just nine minutes later Cradley levelled. It was Cordy again who retook the lead for Khalsa when he rounded the keeper and shot low into the net.

Not to be outdone on the half hour Cradley equalised with a header.

But Cordy was having none of it and put Khalsa ahead again. Liam Hughes had great chances to increase the lead but could not convert them.

Horror of Chambers as he blunts The Blades

Walsall 2 Sheffield United 1
A NEW Year and a new sensation for James Chambers – scoring in a league game.

It's unlikely the 33-year-old, who had just two goals in the League Cup for Watford to his name in more than 350 career appearances before New Year's Day, had made any resolutions about finding the net more.

But the fact he did, capped a superb comeback for the Saddlers and a win which moved them within a point of the play-off positions.

Victory also erased the rather annoying statistic of failing to win a game from behind, though for 45 minutes their success looked most unlikely.

Sheffield United, ahead thanks to Chris Porter's fine goal, were giving a seminar in how to play the Saddlers – sitting back and letting the hosts play in front of them.

But the game turned seven minutes into the second half when referee Lee Collins enraged the Blades by pointing to the spot when Andy Butler tumbled in the box.

Craig Westcarr despatched the penalty, the hosts' first shot on target, past visiting keeper George Long and just past the hour James Chambers became the unlikely hero and completed the turnaround when he put the finishing touches on a fine move.

From then on there looked like being only one winner and in truth the margin would have been greater had Julian Gray despatched the simplest of chances.

Visiting boss Nigel Clough called the penalty decision "disgusting" and its impact on the game should not be ignored.

But then the Saddlers could easily point to Sunday's controversial late equaliser conceded at Gillingham and numerous other questionable calls which have gone against

Football

them this term. And even if they did catch a break this time, there is no doubt they made the most of it. By the end there was no doubt they were deserving winners.

Nor should the impact of Smith's substitutions be glossed over.

The half-time arrival of Westcarr had already begun to take effect before the hosts levelled and late on, with the visitors hunting a leveller, he rejected the idea of shutting up shop with the introductions of Gray and Ashley Hemmings.

The Blades submitted a textbook display in how to play Walsall, sitting deep and letting the hosts pass in front of them.

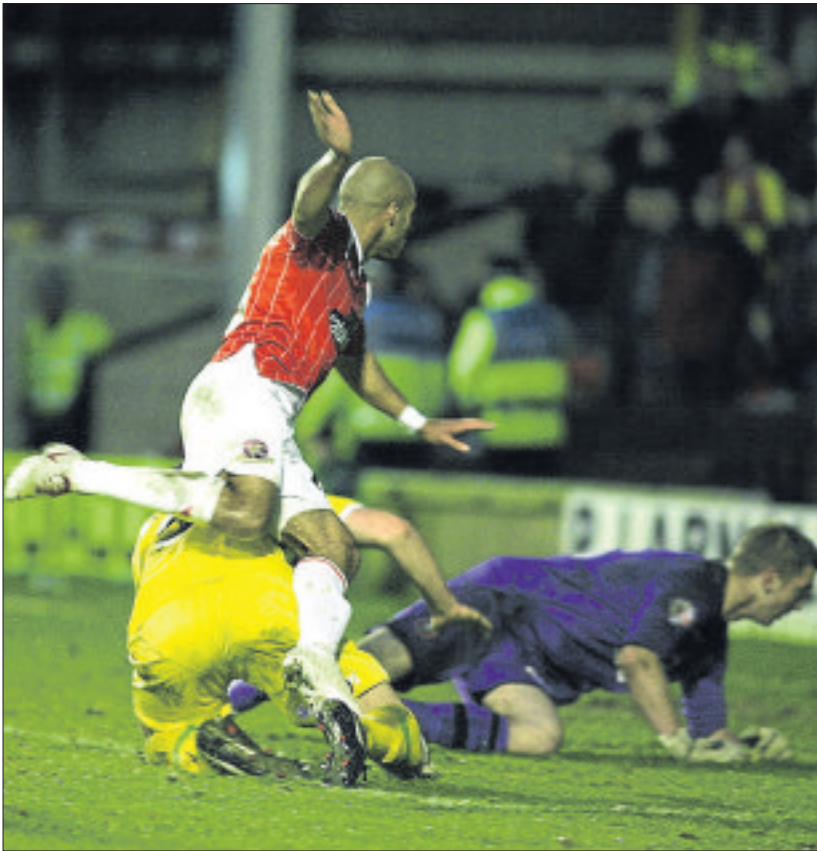
Smith's side simply couldn't find a way through despite their probing.

But everything changed within seven minutes of the restart.

Westcarr saw a corner cleared back to him but when he delivered the ball a second time, referee Collins blew up and pointed to the spot – apparently spotting a push by Harry Maguire on Butler.

United's furious players surrounded him, but after a short delay Westcarr held his nerve to send Long the wrong way.

Eight minutes later, the comeback was complete thanks to Chambers.



James Chambers watches the ball hit the back of the net as he bags Walsall's winning goal

Dominant Pics hit a high five at Rangers

Stafford Rangers 2 Rushall Olympic 5

A COMMANDING first half display paved the way for Rushall Olympic to chalk up their fifth successive league win on the bounce and a league double over Stafford Rangers this season.

The first half was one-way traffic as the visitors completely dominated and took the lead in the seventh minute.

Ahmed Obeng found Dele Adebola, whose shot was palmed away for a corner by Jon Brain in the Rangers' goal and from the resultant kick Josh Craddock's downward header bounced over Brain and into the net.

Olympic continued to look impressive in an excellent opening spell and they went close on a number of occasions

through James Dance, Adebola and Christian Dacres before they doubled their lead close to the half hour.

Another corner from Turner caused problems for the home defence, Obeng flicked on, and Carl Palmer volleyed home.

There was no respite at all for the home side when Palmer flicked on Dance's corner and Adebola saw his shot cleared off the line and then Zak Martin went on a run which ended with his shot inches wide.

Six minutes before the break the Pics made it 3-0 when Dele Adebola ended a great move by cutting inside and curling a left foot shot into the far corner of the net. The home side finally

put their first move of the half together with just one minute remaining but Mooney squandered a good chance by firing wildly over Rangers opened the second period in a far more positive manner and pulled a goal back when substitute Jack Lees sidefooted home but the Pics soon returned to the attack and on 65 minutes went further ahead when the impressive Palmer was brought down and skipper Gavin Caines sent Brain the wrong way from the spot.

Six minutes later it was 5-1 when Palmer chased Dance's free-kick and squared the ball for Christian Dacres to sidefoot home from close range.

To their credit Rangers kept plugging

away and two minutes from time reduced the arrears when another substitute Karl Ashton headed home.

By then, however, it was far too little too late

Stafford Rangers: Brain, Griffiths, Morris, West (Lees 46), Bullock, Johnson, McCartney Mooney Cope (Burke 78), Harris, Davies (Ashton 61)
Unused subs: Kinsella, Curtis
Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, Turner, Martin, Caines (Duggan 73), Daniel, Craddock, Palmer, Dacres, Adebola (Bannister 82), Obeng (Mugisha 74), Dance
Unused subs: Wood, Spink
Attendance 323

SPORT

Sports Desk 01902 319531

Blades blunted
Chambers proves a
horror for opponents
Page 43



e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Aldridge come out on top of friendly

Aldridge 19
Burntwood 2nds 10
THIS friendly fixture versus Burntwood produced a highly competitive and surprisingly free-flowing contest considering the soft pitch and gathering gloom.

Both packs slugged it out throughout trying to gain the upper hand but the contest up front remained equal such that, by the end, neither try line had been threatened by forward pressure.

Because of this impasse both sides widened their game.

The Aldridge midfield had more of a cutting edge which created problems for the visitors such that the home side were two scores ahead by the interval.

Fullback Alex Yates came steaming into the line and out-sprinted the cover defence to touch down midway out and 10 minutes later, a chip over the top and a fortuitous bounce gave No.10 Adam Reed a clear run to the line through a flatfooted defence. Yates converted both.

Hennessey says sorry

WAYNE HENNESSEY has apologised for refusing to play at Gillingham as Crystal Palace and West Ham emerged as front-runners to sign the £2m-rated goalkeeper.

Boss Kenny Jackett revealed the Wales No.1 had said sorry on Monday morning after asking not to play against the Gills, and he will now be available to face Preston on Saturday.

Hennessey's future became a public issue after head coach Jackett claimed the keeper didn't want to play in the Gillingham match on Friday which Wolves lost 1-0.

But Jackett said: "Wayne has apologised this morning. "He feels he was in the wrong and he made the wrong decision. With hindsight, he feels he shouldn't have said what he said. He has apologised. Wayne will carry on as a Wolves player until something happens."

Lambert's words come back to haunt him

Villa 1 Sheff utd 2
PAUL LAMBERT'S comments came back to haunt him following another cup humiliation to a side from Yorkshire.

Before the game the manager had claimed Villa could do without the FA Cup, like it was an unwanted distraction to their Premier League plan.

And Sheffield United duly obliged him, doing what their county counterparts Bradford did in the League Cup just 12 months ago and shocked their hosts.

Afterwards Lambert denied belittling the Cup, insisting his words were taken out of context, but he made it clear it was low on

Football

the priority list. It is something many will think and fewer will utter but the manager still misjudged the mood with Villa desperate for a crumb of comfort.

There is genuine sympathy with the Scot as he must juggle Premier League survival with expectation which is beyond his side at present.

There was nowhere to hide, especially after fielding a strong team even without the injured Nathan Baker, Ron Vlaar and Gabby Agbonlahor.

His team selection made a rod for his own

back. It was win or bust against the League One Blades. There is not a huge difference between Villa's strongest team and their weakest team such is the lack of depth to the squad, meaning Lambert has little wriggle room.

But, after another inept home performance, uncomfortable questions continue to crop up about the team's direction.

Too many of the summer signings look out of their depth, especially worrying against a side 18th in League One.

Libor Kozak's broken leg is desperately unlucky, as is Jores Okore's cruciate knee ligament injury but Aleksandar Toney and

Antonio Luna look short of the quality to take Villa forward. A complete lack of drive, quality and ideas contributed to an early cup exit, a result United fully deserved.

They struck first with Jamie Murphy's deflected effort after a mundane 20 minutes

as Villa began to flounder. Against the run of play, Villa levelled with 15 minutes left when Nicklas Helenius drilled in his first goal for the club after a spot of penalty box pinball.

But parity lasted only six minutes, when Flynn wriggled free 18 yards out and curled in a fine winner. Backed into a corner, Lambert and Villa must find their way out.

Rushall recover for a win

Buxton 1 Rushall 2
RUSHALL Olympic staged a superb second-half recovery to record a sixth successive league victory and take them into the play-off places in the Evo-Stik League Premier Division.

The home side went an early goal up but two second-half strikes sealed a terrific victory against a very good Buxton team.

On three minutes, the Pics put a great move together when fine play from Dele Adebola set up an opportunity for Carl Palmer, but he shot wide.

Three minutes later, the home side were ahead. Jacob Hazell did all the ground work and when he squared the ball Lee Morris forced it home from close range.

Buxton looked impressive early on and they created a gilt-edged chance for Matt Thornhill in the 22nd minute, when he blazed wildly over the bar.

It was the visitors who opened the second half in determined fashion and they drew level in the 56th minute. Adebola used his strength to hold the ball up and find Ahmed Obeng.

The tricky winger jinked his way into the penalty area to square the ball for Palmer to thump a left-foot shot high into the roof of the net.

Dance then headed a Christian Dacres cross just over but in 67 minutes the Pics were ahead when Adebola used his strength turned a defender before rolling the ball past keeper Andy Warrington for what proved to be the winner.

There was almost a third for Rushall when Adebola slid the ball just wide following a goalmouth scramble but the Pics held on to record another win and keep them on course for the play-offs.

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DEAN'S DELIGHT AT LAL'S LONGER LOAN

Alistair's cup of dreams come true for sleepover



Alistair Worrall who won the chance to have a sleepover with the FA Cup after his mother entered a competition

A YOUNG football fan from Walsall has become the first youngster in the country this season to win a sleep over with the FA Cup.

Alistair Worrall, aged seven, from Clayhanger won the chance to spend the night with the famous trophy.

West Brom fan Alistair who goes to Holy Trinity CoE Primary School got to spend the night with the iconic cup after his parents entered him into The FA Cup Dreams competition on the official FA Cup Facebook page.

The scheme aims to introduce a new

generation to the championship and give children a chance to make their football dreams come true.

Alistair's ecstatic father and Baggies fan Julian said: "What a fantastic surprise that really rounded off a brilliant Christmas for us."

"My wife saw the competition on The FA Cup Facebook page, she entered but never thought she would actually win. Having The FA Cup in our own home for the night was truly magical, a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we'll always remember, in particular Alistair

who is just starting off his football journey." The FA Cup Dreams initiative was launched by FA Cup winner and England hero Michael Owen this season with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as winning a sleepover with the Cup, lifting the trophy in front of your own fans and meeting your footballing heroes available for under 12s from the Third Round to the Final.

Families are encouraged to enter their children on the official FA Cup Facebook page, www.facebook.com/TheFACup.

Football

DEAN SMITH is delighted after Walsall confirmed Milan Lalkovic's loan has been extended until the end of the season.

The 21-year-old was due to return to Chelsea on Saturday after scoring four goals in the first half of the campaign for the Saddlers.

But after successful negotiations with the Premier League club, Smith was able to strike a deal which will keep Lalkovic at the Banks' until the summer.

Smith believes the Slovakian under-21 international has shown a steady improvement during his time with the club and expects him to get even better in the months ahead.

"I am delighted that Chelsea have allowed Milan to continue his development with us," said Smith.

"He is getting better each week and has a hunger to learn and improve."

"Thankfully Chelsea see this as the right place for him to be able to do that and I look forward to continuing to work with him and help him develop, while at the same time, he plays his part in maintaining our challenge at the right end of the table."

Lalkovic made a flying start to his Saddlers career when he netted in the 3-1 opening day win over Tranmere. Inconsistent form and a nagging hamstring injury then saw him in-and-out of the side but since returning in the FA Cup first round win over Shrewsbury, he has enjoyed a consistent run in the team.

Lalkovic made clear from



Milan Lalkovic

the start his desire to remain with the Saddlers for the entire season and he now hopes to help fire them into the League One play-offs.

"I have said many times that I wanted to stay here," he said.

"Being here has really benefitted me and I feel that I can keep improving under the Gaffer and (assistant boss) Richard O'Kelly."

"I am pleased that this deal has now been sorted and I can concentrate on my football and helping the club achieve more points."

Smith is remaining tight-lipped over any other arrivals but confirmed there is money to spend should he need it.

The manager has also put back any decision on Julian Gray's future till later in the month, when the winger's short-term deal expires.

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